

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name Broad Creek Historic District

Other names/site number Aire/PG:80-024

### 2. Location

street & number Area bounded by Oxon Hill Road to the north, Indian Head Highway (MD 210) to the east, 10511 Livingston Road to the south, and Potomac River to the west ☐ not for publication

city or town Fort Washington ☒ vicinity

State Maryland code MD county Prince George's code 033 zip code 20744

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

☐ national ☐ statewide ☒ local

  
Signature of certifying official

Oct. 24, 2011  
Date

Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_ entered in the National Register

\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_ other (explain:)

#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal
<input type="checkbox"/>	

##### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

##### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	22	buildings
2		sites
		structures
		objects
5	22	<b>Total</b>

##### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

##### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

3: Harmony Hall, Want Water, St. John's Episcopal Church

#### 6. Function or Use

##### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Village Site

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

TRANSPORTATION: Water-Related

RELIGION: Religious Facility

FUNERARY: Cemetery

##### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

VACANT/NOT IN USE

RELIGION: Religious Facility

FUNERARY: Cemetery

**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- ☒ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☒ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1662-1783

**Significant Dates**

1662; 1695; 1706; 1708; 1723; 1749; 1769; 1783

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Multiple unknown

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins in 1662, with the original patent of the five hundred-acre Battersea tract, from which Broad Creek would develop. The period of significance ends in 1783, marking the end of the Revolutionary War and the decline of the British factorage system for tobacco that triggered the decline of the port town of Aire at Broad Creek.

**Description****Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL: Georgian

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: BRICK

walls: BRICK; WOOD: Weatherboard

roof: WOOD; CONCRETE; OTHER: Composite

WOOD (Bell Tower); WOOD, BRICK

other: (Porches)

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

**Summary Paragraph**

The Broad Creek Historic District includes approximately 455 acres situated in a semi-secluded designated rural tier area in southwestern Prince George's County, approximately three miles south of Washington, D.C. and nine miles from the U.S. Capitol. The district extends along both sides of Livingston Road east of the Potomac River and Broad Creek, a principal tributary, west of Indian Head Highway (MD 210), south of Old Fort Road/Oxon Hill Road, and north of Fort Washington Road. The Broad Creek Historic District derives its significance from a collection of eighteenth-century buildings and landscape features that contribute to the areas of exploration and settlement and that represent eighteenth-century building forms, styles, and construction methods. The district includes three mid-eighteenth-century buildings as well as the remnants of a canal that provide evidence of the prominent port town of Aire, established in 1706. The district stretches south from St. John's Church, erected ca. 1766-1768 on the partial site of an older brick church constructed after the establishment of Piscataway Parish in 1692, and its associated cemetery. The remnants of a canal, completed by 1749, leading from Broad Creek and the ruins of Want Water, a one-and-one-half-story, gambrel-roofed dwelling constructed in 1708, are situated adjacent to Broad Creek. The adjacent land includes Harmony Hall, a ca.-1769 Georgian dwelling overlooking the Potomac River, just west of Livingston Road. A fourth eighteenth-century dwelling, Piscataway House, is situated near the center of the district and also overlooks the Potomac River from the west side of Livingston Road. This dwelling, constructed ca. 1750, was moved to the Broad Creek area from its original location in the village of Piscataway ca. 1932 in order to avoid demolition.

See Continuation Sheets 7.1 through 7.7.



**Criteria Considerations** (if applicable)

The district meets Criteria Consideration A for religious properties as St. John's Episcopal Church, the site of the oldest church in Prince George's County, contributes to the significance of the district in the areas of exploration and settlement and also derives its significance from its architectural distinction. The extant eighteenth-century building, constructed ca. 1766-1768, was erected on the site of Prince George's County's oldest church, St. John's Episcopal Church, established in 1692. The subsequent development that occurred within Broad Creek was influenced by the establishment of the church in the late-seventeenth century.

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

Broad Creek Historic District is significant under Criterion A in the area of exploration and settlement. The district includes the colonial port town of Aire, established in 1706, and the site of Prince George's County oldest church, St. John's Episcopal Church, established in 1692. The historic district is also significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a notable collection of buildings that reflect distinct architectural styles, building plans, and construction types of the eighteenth century.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance)

*Exploration and Settlement*

Broad Creek Historic District is significant under National Register Criterion A for its collection of eighteenth-century buildings and landscape features that illustrate exploration and settlement along the Potomac River in Prince George's County. The port town of Aire, established in 1706 at Broad Creek, and its associated eighteenth-century dwellings and landscape features, including a canal, developed as a result of the thriving tobacco agronomy in the colonial period. This is reflected by the collection of extant eighteenth-century dwellings, including St. John's Church (ca. 1766-1768), Harmony Hall (ca. 1769), and Want Water (ca. 1708), as well as the canal, completed by 1749 to provide access from the Potomac River and Broad Creek estuary inland to the tobacco warehouses and inspection station. The district also includes the site of Prince George's County's oldest church, St. John's Episcopal Church, established in 1692. A fourth church building, constructed ca. 1766-1768, remains in use to the present day on the site of the original church building.

*Architecture*

Broad Creek is significant under National Register Criterion C for its collection of properties that represent several distinctive eighteenth-century architectural styles, forms, and methods of construction. St. John's Episcopal Church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 for its exemplification of an early eighteenth-century ecclesiastical building form represented by its simple box-like footprint, hipped roof, and fenestration pattern comparable to domestic architectural types of the period. Harmony Hall was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 for its exemplification of the Georgian style of architecture, featuring a symmetrical facade, ornamental door and window surrounds, and interior floor plan and finishes, including paneling, chair rails, fireplace surrounds, and stairway treatments. In addition, the district is significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture for its display of early to mid-eighteenth-century building practices. Want Water, constructed ca. 1708, is the earliest extant building within the district. The gambrel ends of the dwelling remain intact and provide insight into early eighteenth-century masonry construction in Maryland. The present St. John's Church (ca. 1766-1768) and Harmony Hall (ca. 1769) also are of masonry construction. This collection of dwellings has the potential to yield information about materials usage, construction practices, and dwelling forms of early cultural groups of Prince George's County.

**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

See Continuation Sheets 8.1 through 8.22.

**9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)  
☐ previously listed in the National Register  
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register  
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark  
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

☐ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☒ Local government  
☐ University  
☒ Other

Prince George's County Department of  
 Planning Vertical Files; Frederick S. Demarr

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Name of repository: Library

See Continuation Sheets 9.1 through 9.4.

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): PG: 80-024**10. Geographical Data****Acreage of Property** 454.55 acres

(do not include previously listed resource acreage)

**UTM References**(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet) Alexandria, VA-DC-MD and Mount Vernon VA-MD USGS quads

1	<u>18</u>	<u>326215</u>	<u>4291899</u>	3	<u>18</u>	<u>325991</u>	<u>4290260</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>18</u>	<u>326806</u>	<u>4290940</u>	4	<u>18</u>	<u>325421</u>	<u>4291439</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundary includes approximately 454.55 acres situated west of Indian Head Highway (MD 210), north of Fort Washington Road, east of the Potomac River, and south of Oxon Hill Road/Old Fort Road. The boundary of Broad Creek Historic District is shown as the dotted line on the accompanying map entitled "Broad Creek Historic District Boundary Map."

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary includes those properties historically associated with settlement of the Broad Creek, from 1662 through 1783, as well as interspersing areas of woodland that contribute to the cohesiveness and integrity of the eighteenth-century landscape setting.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Emma K. Young/Architectural Historianorganization A.D. Marble & Companydate September 2010street & number 10989 Red Run Blvd, Suite 209telephone 410.902.1421city or town Owings Millsstate MDzip code 21117Email eyoung@admarble.com

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Photographs:**

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Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 3000 x 2000 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The Broad Creek Historic District is located in a semi-secluded rural area in southwestern Prince George's County, on the east side of the Potomac River. The district is centered on Livingston Road, from the intersection with Oxon Hill Road at the district's north end to just north of the intersection with Fort Washington Road at the district's south end. The district is bordered to the north by Oxon Hill Road, to the east by Indian Head Highway (MD 210), to the south near Fort Washington Road and the twentieth-century community of Silesia, and to the west by the Potomac River. The mouth of Broad Creek and its wide estuary create the distinctive features near the western boundary of the Broad Creek Historic District and Prince George's County. The topography ranges from marshland and flat flood plains near the estuary to slightly rolling terrain, which rises steeply in places. St. John's Church, Piscataway House, and Harmony Hall are situated atop small knolls that slope downward towards the river. Dense woodland lots, some of which contain twentieth-century, single-family dwellings, are interspersed with and surround the district's eighteenth-century buildings.<sup>2</sup>

The Broad Creek Historic District consists of five contributing properties including three buildings, one cemetery, one canal site, and associated contributing wooded parcels that occupy the approximately 454.55 acres. All of the contributing buildings are located on the west side of Livingston Road. Livingston Road, a narrow, two-lane, paved country road devoid of sidewalks, traverses the center of the district. The non-contributing resources within the district consist of twenty-two buildings, mainly one- to two-and-one-half-story, early to late-twentieth-century frame dwellings. Dense woodland interspersed with small lots characterizes the east side of Livingston Road. Mid- to late-twentieth-century development borders the district to the north, northwest, and south.

St. John's Episcopal Church, constructed ca. 1766-1768, and its associated cemetery occupy approximately 4.29 acres near the north end of the district. The church and cemetery are located on a cleared lot, surrounded to the north, south, and west by trees. The church property also includes a non-contributing 1966 church hall and education center situated to the north of the contributing church and cemetery, and a non-contributing 1961 Colonial Revival-style dwelling that serves as the rectory located on a 4.42-acre parcel to the northeast. Piscataway House, located 0.3-miles south of St. John's Episcopal Church, was originally constructed ca. 1750 in the village of Piscataway, located four miles to the south of Broad Creek. Ca. 1932, the dwelling was disassembled and reconstructed near the eastern edge of a 10.32-acre parcel that stretches between Livingston Road and Broad Creek. Dense woodland shields the dwelling from Livingston Road. Harmony Hall (known as Battersea prior to 1793) is situated approximately 0.5-miles south of Piscataway House on a 65.71-acre tract. The ca.-1769 dwelling is partially visible from Livingston Road.<sup>3</sup> The ruins of Want Water, a ca.-1708 frame and brick dwelling, are situated to the northwest of Harmony Hall, immediately adjacent to Broad Creek and the path of a canal constructed by 1749. The dirt bed and traces of the towpath of the canal are still visible on the landscape. These features provide physical evidence of the port town of Aire, established in 1706. Purportedly, the remnants of a brick-paved roadway that bordered the creek area between Want Water and St. John's

<sup>2</sup> Sites of nineteenth-century commercial structures and dwellings remain unidentified by archeological surveys to date.

<sup>3</sup> The date of construction of Harmony Hall is a point of disagreement among historians and archeologists. Portions may date to as early as ca. 1723; however, documentary and architectural evidence support the ca. 1769 date as the completion date for the extant dwelling.



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Episcopal Church have been uncovered in sections along the rear property lots of the various present-day owners that occupy the intervening parcels.<sup>4</sup>

A more detailed description of each principal building and associated landscape features included within the Broad Creek Historic District follows.

*St. John's Episcopal Church (ca. 1766-1768) and Cemetery*<sup>5</sup>

St. John's Episcopal Church (St. John's Church) was constructed ca. 1766-1768 as a simplified one-story, plain, Georgian-style building with nineteenth- and twentieth-century alterations. St. John's is the fourth church to be constructed on the site. Two frame ecclesiastical structures were built following the establishment of Piscataway Parish in 1692. These were replaced by a brick church completed in 1723. The existing eighteenth-century church was enlarged upon the 1723 brick structure.

The church consists of a one-story, hipped-roof, rectangular block. A one-story, gable-front, brick-enclosed entry is appended to the west elevation. The building is oriented west-east, with its footprint slightly perpendicular to Livingston Road.

The exterior walls of the church are brick, laid in Flemish bond. The church is capped by a flared hipped roof, covered in reinforced concrete shingles meant to replicate the appearance of Colonial-era shakes. A simple boxed cornice accentuates the roofline.

The main entry into the church is via a gabled, one-story, brick entry porch. The walls and floor of the porch are built of brick, laid in a bond of continuously running stretchers. The gable roof is sheathed in the same reinforced concrete shingles as the main block. Horizontal wood siding covers the gable, and a simple wood cross extends from the peak. Three brick steps lead to an open, rounded-arch entryway that provides access into the porch, which also contains two rounded-arch window-like openings in both the north and south elevations. Each arched opening is encased in a surround comprised of brick headers. The main entry into the church, sheltered by the gable-roof porch, consists of a set of double-leaf, rounded-arch, wood doors. A freestanding, wood bell tower, supported by four posts and topped by a wood-shingled pyramidal roof, is situated to the south of the entry porch. Two, two-over-two light, double-hung, wood-sash windows flank the ridge of the entry porch roof, in the west elevation of the church.

The south elevation of the church measures three-bays wide. A double-leaf, paneled, wood door occupies the center bay and originally served as the main entry into the church. A twelve-over-nine-light, double-hung, wood-sash window flanks each side of the entry. These windows replaced earlier fixed-sash stained-glass windows installed ca. 1910.

<sup>4</sup> Interview with Richard Krueger and David Turner, Broad Creek Historic District Advisory Committee, December 16, 2009. Notes on file in Owings Mills, Maryland.

<sup>5</sup> St. John's Episcopal Church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 18, 1974, for its notable representation of an eighteenth-century ecclesiastical form and for its association with the prominent Addison family of Prince George's County.

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The east elevation consists of a set of paired, twelve-over-nine-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows, which replaced a circular stained-glass window installed ca. 1910. The north elevation includes four evenly spaced, twelve-over-nine-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows.

With the exception of the brick entry porch, each of the openings in the church is set into simple wood surrounds.<sup>6</sup>

Old Saint Johns Way provides access from Livingston Road to a parking area and circular driveway located to the north of the church. A brick sidewalk leads from the circular drive past the west elevation of the church to terminate at the entry in the south elevation. Evergreen foundation plantings line the church elevations, and various mature evergreen and deciduous trees shade the churchyard.

The associated St. John's Cemetery, which includes the graves of many prominent county individuals and families, stretches from the south and southeast sides of the church. The cemetery purportedly includes burials from the seventeenth century; however, the earliest marked grave dates to ca. 1760.<sup>7</sup> The grave markers utilize a variety of styles and materials, including stone tablets, bronze and granite ground-level plaques, and cross-shaped sculptures. The carefully kept cemetery grounds are rolling, mostly sloping downward to the south and east from the church. Mature cedar and deciduous trees dot the landscape.

The parish hall and education center is located to the north of the church, on the northwest side of the circular driveway. The L-shaped brick building was constructed in 1966 and designed in the Colonial Revival style, meant to compliment the appearance of the church. The exterior walls are clad in brick, and the hipped roof features interior brick chimneys. The building is lit by multi-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows set into simple wood surrounds similar to those of the church.

The rectory is located to the east of the church near Livingston Road. The one-and one-half-story brick dwelling was constructed in 1961 and designed in the Colonial Revival style, meant to compliment the Georgian style of the church. The exterior walls are clad in brick, and the windows consist of multi-light, double-hung sash types. The hipped roof features a front-facing gable topped by an interior brick chimney.

St. John's Church and cemetery, which are in excellent condition, retain their original function. A large expanse of woodland surrounds the property to the north, west, and south, and Livingston Road lines the property to the east. Dense vegetation largely screens the church from Broad Creek, which runs to the west of the property.

*Piscataway House (ca. 1750; relocated ca. 1932; non-contributing)*

Piscataway House was constructed ca. 1750 in the village of Piscataway, located four miles to the south of Broad Creek. About 1932, Charles Collins, a prominent politician, ordered the relocation of the dwelling to its present location in order to avoid demolition. The dwelling was shipped via water transport, with Collins

<sup>6</sup> For a detailed description of the building's interior, see Christopher Owens, *St. John's Episcopal Church National Register of Historic Places Nomination* (Prepared for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, November 1973; on file at the Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland).

<sup>7</sup> Helen West Ridgely, *Historic Graves of Maryland and the District of Columbia* (New York: The Grafton Press, 1908), 266.



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adding a dogleg to the canal in order to transport the building to his lot. The date of relocation, 1932, falls outside the period of significance for the district, so that Piscataway House is considered non-contributing. (However, it may be individually eligible for the National Register in a separate context.)

Piscataway House consists of a one-and-one-half-story, timber-frame main block originally constructed ca. 1750. The dwelling rests on a brick foundation and basement, added ca. 1932 at the time of relocation. The exterior walls are clad in clapboard siding, painted white. A steeply pitched, side-gable roof, sheathed in slate shingles, caps the dwelling. Two freestanding brick chimneys are located on each gable; a pent connects the two on the south elevation.

The gable roof extends to cover a one-story porch on both the east and west elevations. The porch in the east elevation retains its supports and shelters a one-bay set of wood steps flanked by a wooden railing at the center bay. The porch in the west elevation is a full-width, raised porch accessed via stone steps set into the ground and four wood steps flanked by a wood railing. The west elevation porch consists of a wood floor and turned balustrade and posts.

With the exception of the porch on the north elevation, the north and south elevations are identical, each measuring three bays wide. Access to the interior is provided via a centrally located single-leaf paneled door topped by a four-light transom. Nine-over-six-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows with operable, louvered, wood shutters flank the entry. Three evenly spaced gabled dormers are situated in the east and west elevations. The dormers are sheathed in wood shakes and inset with a single, six-over-six light, double-hung, wood-sash window. Each dormer is classically detailed to include fluted pilasters topped by small capitals and broken pediments formed of thin wood molding.

Narrow, six-over-four-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows are situated in the first story of the north and south elevations. A brick kitchen, constructed ca. 1932, is attached to the north elevation of the dwelling. The kitchen features a steeply pitched, side-gable roof, and a single four-over-four-light, double-hung, wood-sash window in the east and west elevation. The north elevation includes an eight-light, single-leaf, wood storm door in the easternmost bay, with a four-over-four light, double-hung, wood-sash window to the west. A double-leaf metal bulkhead door is situated at the southwest junction of the kitchen addition and main block.

A one-story, two-bay, brick, side-gable wing was added ca. 1980 to the south elevation in order to balance the appearance of the kitchen wing. A smaller three-bay brick and glass corridor was constructed to connect the 1980 wing with a one-and-one-half-story brick and frame addition added to the southernmost end of the dwelling. The simple style and features of the addition, including dormers in the side-gable roof, compliment the eighteenth-century main block.<sup>8</sup>

The property also contains a ca.-1950 one-and-one-half-story, two-bay, brick carriage house situated to the north of the dwelling. The carriage house exhibits Colonial Revival-style detailing, including a symmetrical

<sup>8</sup> For a detailed description of the building's interior, see Susan Pearl, *Piscataway House Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form* (Prepared for the Prince George's County Historical and Cultural Trust, April 1981; on file at the Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland).

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façade, double-hung sash windows, dormers, and gable roof. In addition, a late-twentieth-century frame garden shed and stable are located across the gravel drive, to the north and northwest of the dwelling.

Piscataway House, which is used as a seasonal residence, remains in good condition. A gravel driveway leads west from Livingston Road and forms a roundabout immediately northwest of the dwelling. Vegetation, including boxwoods and cedar trees, surrounds the dwelling, largely concealing it from the roadway. A grass pasture stretches from the west elevation of the dwelling to present a view of Broad Creek and the Potomac River.

*Harmony Hall (ca. 1769)<sup>9</sup>*

Harmony Hall, known as Battersea prior to 1793, was constructed ca. 1769. The dwelling is located on a tract of land patented on October 27, 1662 under the name of "Battersea," for Humphrey Haggett, a lawyer who practiced in the county court.<sup>10</sup>

Harmony Hall consists of a two-and-one-half-story, Georgian-style dwelling, which rests on a brick foundation. Brick, laid in Flemish bond, comprises the exterior walls. A molded brick beltcourse separates the first and second stories on the east and west elevations. A dentiled wood cornice accentuates the side-gable roof on the east and west elevations. A brick interior chimney pierces the north and south gable. The roof is sheathed in composite shingles.

The east and west elevations of the dwelling each measure seven-bays wide. The main entry occupies the center bay. A narrow double-hung, wood-sash window, comprised of six-over-six lights in the first story and six-over-four lights in the second story, flanks the entry bay. The remaining window openings consist of nine-over-six light, double-hung, wood-sash windows in the first story, with six-over-six light, double-hung, wood-sash windows located in the second story. Each window, set into a simple wood surround, is topped by a jack-arched brick lintel. The dwelling also features two-light, awning-sash windows in the basement level.

The west elevation, which faces the Potomac River, retains the single-leaf, wood-paneled entry door set into a surround comprised of pilasters and topped with a triangular pediment and entablature. A double-sided wood stair, flanked by a wood railing, provides access to the entry. The east elevation exhibits alterations from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, including the addition of two gabled dormers featuring pilasters topped by simple capitals and a broken pediment. Each dormer is inset with a nine-over-six-light, arched window. The elevation features a central large brick pediment featuring a bulls-eye window. Changes in the brickwork surrounding the east elevation entry provide evidence that the height and width of the original entry was modified, most likely to accommodate a smaller door. In addition, a one-story, one-bay, gable-front wood entry porch was also added.

<sup>9</sup> Harmony Hall was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 6, 1980, as an example of Georgian style architecture, its notable representation of an early eighteenth century plantation dwelling, and for its association with many prominent families of Prince George's County.

<sup>10</sup> According to local tradition, a portion of the extant dwelling may date to 1723, the same year in which the third church building was erected at St. John's; however, architectural evidence and subsequent documentary evidence support the ca. 1769 construction date. Edmund J. Fitzgerald and Gary Scott, *Harmony Hall National Register of Historic Places Nomination* (Prepared for the National Park Service-National Capital Region, November 1979; on file at the Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland), 8-1.

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Two small, four-light, fixed-sash windows are present in the gable ends.

A one-and-one-half-story wing, constructed in 1941, appends the south gable, with a slightly smaller one-and-one-half-story wing added to the 1941 wing in 1987. Both wings exhibit Colonial Revival-style detailing, including six-over-nine and six-over-six light, double-hung, wood-sash windows and wall dormers.<sup>11</sup>

Several frame outbuildings are located to the south of Harmony Hall, including a ca.-1920s poultry house and a stable constructed in the late 1980s; however, both of these buildings are vacant and in a state of disrepair.

Harmony Hall, which is currently owned and maintained by the National Park Service, remains in good condition. A gravel driveway leads west from Livingston Road and forms a roundabout to the east of the dwelling. Mature evergreen and deciduous trees, including cedar and cypress types, intersperse the area immediately surrounding the dwelling. A grass pasture extends west, providing Harmony Hall with a commanding view of the Potomac River. An English ha-ha (a trench lined with stones built to keep the stock from wandering up to the dwelling) crosses this opening, just west of the dwelling.

*Want Water Ruins (ca. 1708)<sup>12</sup>*

Want Water was constructed ca. 1708 for Colonel Thomas Addison, the county's first surveyor. The dwelling was constructed adjacent to the prominent port town of Aire, established in 1706 along the banks of Broad Creek, a tributary of the Potomac River. Want Water is situated on the grounds of Harmony Hall, approximately one-thousand feet northwest of the dwelling.

Want Water consisted of a one-and-one-half-story, gambrel-roofed dwelling with gabled dormers. The gambrel ends were constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond with random glazed headers, a molded brick water table, and exterior brick chimneys. The east and west elevations were constructed of frame. Nothing survives of the wooden elements of the dwelling. The brick gambrel ends remain, stabilized with metal capping and bracing by the National Park Service in 1998.

Want Water, which is in ruins, is only accessible through the pasture and woodland that comprise the northwest area of the Harmony Hall property. The remnants of the canal, completed by 1749, including the canal bed and portions of the towpath, are located immediately to the west of the ruins.

Alterations

Overall, the Broad Creek Historic District contains minimal visible modern intrusions, such as buildings or structures, that detract from the integrity of the eighteenth-century contributing properties and landscape features. Each of the eighteenth-century buildings are situated on relatively large parcels that afford sufficient screening and distance to avoid intrusions in the immediate setting. The district retains cohesiveness through

<sup>11</sup> For a detailed description of the building's interior, see Fitzgerald and Scott, *Harmony Hall National Register of Historic Places Nomination*.

<sup>12</sup> Want Water was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 6, 1980, as a contributing resource to Harmony Hall.

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the connected eighteenth-century buildings that are situated on large tracts of land with buildings oriented towards the Potomac River. The twentieth-century dwellings located within the district are largely set back from the roadway and screened by dense swaths of trees in some areas. These dwellings are relatively small in size, measuring one- to two-and-one-half-stories in height, and constructed of frame.



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Historical Narrative:

Establishment of Prince George's County and "Battersea," 1608-1700

The coastal plain of the Potomac River basin served as home and hunting grounds for groups of the Piscataway and other Native American tribes for more than five-thousand years prior to the first European contact. The first recorded European visit to what would become Prince George's County occurred in 1608, when Captain John Smith sailed up the Potomac River. Captain Smith prepared a map that illustrated three Native American settlements of the Piscataway tribe near the area that would become known as Broad Creek.<sup>12</sup> After Captain Smith's exploratory expedition, European traders began to frequent the native settlements along the Potomac River. In 1634, the first Maryland colonists landed at the mouth of the Potomac River, and shortly thereafter, Governor Leonard Calvert established St. Mary's City, Maryland's first settlement.<sup>13</sup>

The settlement at St. Mary's City flourished, and counties were subsequently created as settlers traveled beyond the confines of the original settlement. Within thirty years, farms and plantations lined the Patuxent River, which belonged to Calvert County (established 1654), and the Potomac River in Charles County (established 1658). By 1695, approximately 1,700 colonists inhabited the area warranting the right of self-government. On April 23, 1696, the General Assembly established Prince George's County from portions of Calvert and Charles counties.<sup>14</sup> The county served as Maryland's western frontier, extending from the Charles County line at the south northward to the Pennsylvania border.<sup>15</sup> Charles Town, a port town on the Patuxent River established by the General Assembly in 1683, served as the first county seat.

The first record of proposed use and settlement by the European colonists in the Broad Creek area occurred in 1662. On October 27, 1662, approximately five-hundred acres were surveyed for Humphrey Haggett, a lawyer who practiced in the county court. Haggett named his tract "Battersea."<sup>16</sup> Haggett never lived on the property, and upon his death in 1668, the land was re-patented for his widow's new husband, Richard Fowke.<sup>17</sup> The Fowkes retained ownership for the next twenty years, conveying the tract in 1688 to Richard (L)Iles and Philip Mason.<sup>18</sup> There is no evidence to suggest that either Fowke or (L)Iles and Mason lived on the property. In 1692, Mason sold his 250 acres to Thomas Lewis, and it is most likely the Lewis family who constructed the first dwelling on the Battersea tract—an earth-fast structure just east of where the ca.-1769 Harmony Hall stands today.<sup>19</sup> Thomas Lewis's will (June 1696) divided his 250 acres amongst his children: Thomas and

<sup>12</sup> John Smith, *Virginia* (Oxford: John Smith, 1608). On file in the Huntingfield Corporation Map Collection, Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland. Broad Creek appears on maps as early as Walter Hoxton's 1735 *Mapp of the Bay of Chesepeack* [sic].

<sup>13</sup> Daniel M. Greene, *A Brief History of Prince George's County in the Perspective of Three Centuries Commemorating Its 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* (Avondale, Maryland: Daniel M. Greene, 1946), 9-10.

<sup>14</sup> Maryland State Archives, "Proceedings of the Council of Maryland, 1696/7; 1698, Volume 23, Page 23," <http://aomol.net/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000023/html/am23--23.html> (February 4, 2010). Prince George's County was named for Prince George of Denmark, husband of Princess Anne, heir to the throne of England.

<sup>15</sup> Prince George's County remained Maryland's frontier until 1748, when Frederick County was formed.

<sup>16</sup> Prince George's County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Prince George's County Patent Survey 6:226, 1662.

<sup>17</sup> Prince George's County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Prince George's County Patent Survey 12:138, 1668.

<sup>18</sup> Charles County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Charles County Deed P1:32, 1688.

<sup>19</sup> Charles County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Charles County Deed S1: 48, 1692; Robert C. Sonderman, Matthew R. Virta, Marilyn W. Nickels, and Stephen R. Potter, *Archeology at Harmony Hall: Exploring the Late Seventeenth-Century Frontier of*

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Richard each received one-hundred acres and John received fifty acres. By 1712, however, the Lewis children conveyed 150 acres to Thomas Stonestreet. Richard Lewis retained ownership of the one-hundred acres that would eventually include the Harmony Hall dwelling.<sup>20</sup>

Richard (L)les retained ownership of the northern 250 acres of Battersea until he purportedly conveyed the 250 acreage to Richard Gamba sometime prior to 1726. In November 1726, Richard Gamba of Charles County, son of the deceased Richard Gamba formerly of Prince George's County, sold the northern 250 acres of Battersea to Thomas Stonestreet for five-thousand pounds tobacco and thirty-pound sterling. With this conveyance in 1726, Thomas Stonestreet owned approximately four-hundred acres of the original Battersea tract.<sup>21</sup>

By this time, several smaller tracts were laid out in the immediate vicinity of Battersea. These included "Little Hall" and "Wharton's Rest" to the northwest and "Addison's Expedition", "Aithey's Folly," and "Clarkson's Purchase" to the south. Most likely, these tracts were not occupied at the time of their patent; however, evidence suggests that they were at least cultivated during the last decade of the seventeenth century as Maryland colonists started moving inland, discovering fertile land adjacent to the major waterways and estuaries of the Potomac River, and consequently, beginning to settle and develop communities.<sup>22</sup>

Establishment of Piscataway Parish, Including Construction of St. John's Episcopal Church, 1692-1723

Throughout the seventeenth century, Maryland colonists practiced a desultory religious life. Advances in the Church of England in the 1670s, Maryland's designation as a royal colony in 1692, and the yielding of political power by those who wished to strengthen ties with England influenced the Provincial Assembly of Maryland to pass the first of three Establishment Acts in 1692.<sup>23</sup> The Act laid out thirty parishes around the colony's ten counties, with vestries to collect taxes and manage parish business. Although vetoed by the royal authority, this Act set the framework for the passage and royal approval of the final 1702 Establishment Act, which established the Church of England as the official religion of the Maryland colony. The Act also assessed:

Forty pounds of Tobacco per poll yearly—which shall always be paid and allowed to the minister of each respective Parish—and each such minister is hereby required and enjoined to appoint, and constantly keep, a clerk of such

*Maryland* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service-National Capital Region, 1993), 58. An earth-fast dwelling is a building without a foundation where corner poles are inserted directly into the earth. The archeological investigations carried out by the National Park Service (1985-1987) provided evidence of an earth-fast structure just east of the ca.-1769 Harmony Hall.

<sup>20</sup> Prince George's County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Prince George's County Deeds D: 179, 1709 and E: 101, 1711.

Telephone interview with Phyllis Cox, former Broad Creek resident, March 2010.

<sup>21</sup> Prince George's County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Prince George's County Deed M: 88, 1726. Telephone interview with Phyllis Cox, former Broad Creek resident, March 2010.

<sup>22</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study* (Upper Marlboro, Maryland: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, June 2002), 8.

<sup>23</sup> In 1692, William and Mary of England declared Maryland a royal colony, to be governed as such, instead of as a proprietary colony.



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parish church, to pay and satisfy such clerk the sum of One thousand pounds of tobacco a year.<sup>24</sup>

Although charged with managing parish business and collecting taxes, the vestries wielded no control over who was appointed as their minister; the Royal Governor and later Lord Baltimore retained this right.

Piscataway Parish (later known as King George's Parish and St. John's Parish) was one of the thirty parishes laid out in 1692 and formally approved in 1702. The parish encompassed lands stretching northward along the Potomac River, from Mattawoman Creek to the Pennsylvania border, which included the future Washington, D.C., and northwestern Maryland.<sup>25</sup>

At the time of its original division in 1692, Piscataway Parish did not include a church but the few inhabitants quickly selected a Vestry to oversee the administrative functions of the new Parish. The first Vestry meeting occurred at the home of John Addison, soon-to-be colonel of the county's militia. In 1694, the Vestry purchased the seventy eight-acre Little Hall tract from George Athey and contracted with carpenters to erect a wooden church building. In 1707, William Taylor, a local carpenter, constructed another frame church to replace the earlier structure.<sup>26</sup>

This church building quickly became one of the focal points for the developing community. Two chapels of ease were constructed by 1696, with the "upper chapel" built to the north near the Eastern Branch (present-day Seat Pleasant) and the "lower chapel" constructed to the south in Accokeek.<sup>27</sup> Although the area's population was not entirely Anglican, the construction of the new church and chapels of ease enhanced the church's support and membership. Within thirty years of the 1702 Act, the number of Anglicans in the Maryland colony increased six fold.<sup>28</sup>

In 1710, John Fraser (Frazier) became the first rector and minister at St. John's Church.<sup>29</sup> On September 18, 1719, Reverend Fraser called a Vestry meeting regarding construction of a larger church building as necessitated by the growth and activity occurring in the port town at Broad Creek. By 1722, the number of taxables in the Parish reached 1105, and the parishioners had the financial means to build a brick church to replace the frame structure erected by Taylor in 1707. In January 1722/1723, the Vestry agreed to pay John Lane 16,000 pounds of tobacco to construct the church and porch of brick and to pay carpenter John Radford

<sup>24</sup> John Butler, *Awash in a Sea of Faith: Christianizing the American People* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1992), 102-103.

<sup>25</sup> Percy G. Skirven, *The First Parishes of the Province of Maryland* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1997), 135-139.

<sup>26</sup> Charles County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Charles County Deed Q:70-71, 1694; Louise J. Heinton, *Prince George's Heritage* (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1972), 67-69.

<sup>27</sup> A chapel of ease is a chapel constructed for a large parish for convenience (i.e.: ease) of the parishioners who lived a sizeable distance from the main parish church.

<sup>28</sup> "Two Colonial Churches of Maryland," *The Sunday Star* (Washington, D.C.), 5 July 1931. After the 1702 Act, the Roman Catholic population of the Maryland colony mostly concentrated in Charles and St. Mary's counties came under significant restrictions. Catholics were denied voting rights and the holding of public office, as well as required to worship in private.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid. Some accounts indicate that Reverend George Tubman served as the first rector beginning in August 4, 1696; however, Reverend Tubman was also rector of the parishes of Port Tobacco, William and Mary, and Manjemy, so perhaps Reverend Fraser is considered the first due to only overseeing and serving the Piscataway Parish.

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14,000 pounds of tobacco to complete the framing, doors, windows, shutters, pulpit, pew, and gallery.<sup>30</sup> In 1724, Reverend Fraser completed an Anglican church questionnaire within which he described the new church, "My Parish church in its infancy was twice built with timber...lately built a new church with brick from the ground to the great expences [sic] of the Parishioners; not yet able to purchase Glass for window plate..."<sup>31</sup> Fraser also noted that in 1724, his Parish included four-hundred families with 1,200 taxables in an area that encompassed approximately nine-hundred square miles. Service was held three Sundays a month at Broad Creek, one Sunday a month at the chapels of ease, and one weekday from Easter to Christmas at "another corner of my Parish inconvenient to Church or Chapels."<sup>32</sup>

Reverend Fraser devoted himself not only to the white congregation but to the teaching and conversion of African-American slaves. In his 1724 questionnaire, Fraser provided the following evidence of his efforts:

Are there any Infidels, bond or free, within your Parish; and what means are used for their conversion? The Bond slaves are negroes and mulattos, of which sort I have baptized a great many, both infants, but particularly of adults. They frequent my churches ordinarily, and say their Catechism. The free are native Indians, who are aversed [sic] to Christianity.<sup>33</sup>

This suggests that the Piscataway Parish included a significant number of African-American slaves, but that Fraser was less successful in teaching and converting the relatively few Native Americans who remained in the area.<sup>34</sup> Fraser's observations also provide evidence that the Parish was growing as a direct result of the establishment, growth, and productivity of the port town of Aire at Broad Creek.

The Town of Aire [at Broad Creek], Including Construction of Want Water, 1706-1760

Gradual settlement in Prince George's County continued throughout the early eighteenth century, with tobacco serving as the foundation upon which the county's settlement and growth relied. During the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, nearly all of the settlers in the Maryland colony engaged in the cultivation of tobacco due to the fertile soil and the convenience of water transportation. Tobacco served as the legal tender for the colony almost until the Revolutionary War. Despite price fluctuations, there was always a ready market for tobacco, with England as the principal buyer followed later by France, Belgium, and other European countries.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Vestry Minutes of King George's Parish, 1693-1779, 44-52.

<sup>31</sup> As quoted in Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study*, 14. From 1724 onward, Piscataway Parish is generally referred to as King George's or St. John's Parish. "King George's Parish" was made official by the Diocese of Washington in 1902.

<sup>32</sup> William S. Perry, D.D., *Historical Collections Relating to the American Colonial Church*, Vol. 4, Anglican Records of Maryland and Delaware, Questionnaires of 1724.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study*, 10.

<sup>35</sup> Daniel M. Greene, *A Brief History of Prince George's County in the Perspective of Three Centuries, Commemorating its 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*, 9-10.

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Most of the settlers came to Maryland to work small farms and tobacco fields with their families. Since tobacco demanded daily attention, the most a farmer could tend himself was two or three acres, which provided a subsistence living but not a financially advantageous living. In order to increase production, the farmer needed extra labor, and throughout the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, those who could afford extra help took on indentured servants; however, as farmers and planters became more numerous and prosperous, the number of indentured servants was reduced, particularly since their terms of service were limited.

Consequently, beginning in the early decades of the eighteenth century, large numbers of Africans were brought to the county to work as slave labor. By the early eighteenth century, approximately a quarter of the households in Prince George's County owned slaves. By the 1750s, that number may have reached half of the county households, as slaveholding was not limited to a small upper class but was instead widespread throughout the population: nearly all of the settlers in Maryland cultivated tobacco, including those of Prince George's County where the fertile soil was particularly adaptable.<sup>36</sup>

Beginning in the mid-seventeenth century, the Maryland and Virginia governments promoted the formation of town centers. The increased amount of trade and the number of plantations throughout the Maryland colony prompted the 1706 passage of an Act for the Advancement of Trade, which re-established Charles Town as well as established five new town and port sites:

In Prince Georges County at the Land of William Mills in Petuxent [sic] river [Mill Town] at Mattapany Landing on the Land of Thomas Brooke Esqr [Nottingham] at Mount Calvert where the Court house stands [Charles Town] and at the upper Landing in the Western branch Comonly [sic] called Col Belts Landing [Upper Marlboro] at the upper Landing in the Northern branch on the West side of the said branch Comonly [sic] called Andersons Landing [Queen Anne] and at broad Creek in Potomack [sic] on the south side of the said Creek at Thomas Lewis's Landing [Aire].<sup>37</sup>

The establishment of only one port town on the Potomac River indicated that the concentration of population and commerce at this time was located in the eastern part of the county along the Patuxent River.<sup>38</sup>

The "Town of Aire," or Broad Creek, was established in 1706 by the Act for the Advancement of Trade. Prior to this establishment, trade was already well-established at Broad Creek, the only one of the first established six towns to be located on the Potomac River.<sup>39</sup> The landing at Broad Creek was known as Thomas Lewis's landing, thereby suggesting that it had been in use since Lewis's time of ownership in the late-seventeenth

<sup>36</sup> Alan Virta, "The Tobacco County," <http://www.pghistory.org/PG/PG300/tobacounty.html> (accessed February 4, 2010).

Maryland Provincial Assembly, *Assembly Proceedings, April 2-19, 1706*.

<sup>38</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Antebellum Plantations in Prince George's County, Maryland: A Historic Context and Research Guide* (Upper Marlboro, Maryland: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, June 2009), 42-45.

<sup>39</sup> In 1707, the port town of Piscataway was established on the Piscataway Creek, another tributary of the Potomac River.

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century. The small commercial town included one-hundred acres along the western side of Battersea, where Clash (Slash) Creek flows into Broad Creek and onward into the Potomac River.<sup>40</sup>

Eleven commissioners were appointed to select the one-hundred acres of land that would become Aire. This land was laid out in streets, lanes, and alleys, with open spaces left for erecting public buildings, and the remaining acreage divided into one-hundred one-acre lots of equal size. During the first four months after the passage of the Act, the lots were only available to county inhabitants, with the former owner of the land having first choice. After four months, the general public was able to purchase any unsold lots. Within a year of purchase, the owner was required to build a house at least twenty-square feet in order to maintain ownership of the lot, otherwise the commissioners could resell the lot for the benefit of the town. After seven years, if none of the one-hundred acre lots were sold, the lot reverted back to the former owner. The commissioners appointed a clerk to keep record and set the price of each lot in the amount of 350 pounds of tobacco. In those instances where the lot reverted back to the former owner, the owner was able to set their own price.<sup>41</sup>

Based on written accounts and records as well as the existing landscape, not all of the one-hundred lots in Aire were developed; however, contemporary records do provide insight into the growth of the community. A landing already existed, followed by tobacco warehouses, and the community grew with increased trade. An indication of this increase and activity is the fact that in 1716 the Prince George's County Court ordered the erection of a pair of stocks and whipping post in Aire.<sup>42</sup>

Also in 1706, at the time of Aire's founding, a small tract of land was surveyed along the northwest diagonal boundary of Battersea and also included a portion of Wharton's Rest. The new thirty-five-acre tract, called "Want Water," was patented to Thomas Addison, the county's first surveyor and son of Colonel John Addison.<sup>43</sup> The Want Water tract included land along the south bank of Broad Creek, providing its owner with valuable commercial exposure in the developing town of Aire. Thomas Addison may well have traveled back and forth between his Want Water commercial property and the family's plantation located three miles to the north. Shortly after Addison's patent, a frame and brick dwelling was most likely constructed on the property ca. 1708, although not enlarged and finished until a few decades later.<sup>44</sup>

This same period also saw a change in ownership of the tracts adjacent to Aire. In 1709, Richard Lewis conveyed his entire one hundred-acre Battersea tract to carpenter William Tyler. This conveyance included all of the lots within Aire, specifically "any part thereof being erected and made a Town."<sup>45</sup> The property remained in the ownership of the Tyler family for more than fifty years, and the family most likely resided in the earth-fast structure on the property until it was destroyed by fire a few decades later. Tyler died in 1721, upon which

<sup>40</sup> Alan Virta, "Prince George's County: Over 300 Years of History," <http://www.pghistory.org/PG/PG300/history.html> (accessed February 4, 2010).

<sup>41</sup> Archives of Maryland, Volume XXVI: 636-639.

<sup>42</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study*, 12. Prince George's County Circuit Court-Lands Record Department, Prince George's County Patent DD5: 509, 1708. The name "Want Water" was purportedly based on the lack of direct access from the property to nearby Broad Creek.

<sup>44</sup> Philip Woodworth Ogilvie and Potomac River Trail Association, *Along the Potomac* (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, Inc., 2003), 93.

<sup>45</sup> Prince George's County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Prince George's County Deed E: 5, 1709.



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the property passed to his wife, Elizabeth, and after her death, to their son William Tyler and his heirs; however, William Tyler, Jr., predeceased his mother, and the one hundred-acre property was later sold by John Tyler, son of William Tyler, Jr., in 1761.<sup>46</sup>

By 1739, a road that followed the approximate alignment of the present-day Livingston Road, which traverses the district from north to south, was in use. This road provided access from the tobacco fields to the various water transports, and later, tobacco warehouses and storehouses, as well as served to connect residents to the county churches.<sup>47</sup>

While the town of Aire continued to grow, the Want Water tract changed hands. In 1736, John Addison, eldest son and heir of Thomas Addison, sold the thirty-five-acre property to Humphrey Batts, a shipwright.<sup>48</sup> Batts had married the elder William Tyler's daughter, Mary, in 1727. Most likely, Batts expanded and finished the Want Water dwelling with a gambrel roof and dormers. The dwelling was apparently among the more distinguished homes in the county, constructed partially of brick with fine interior details such as paneled walls, chair rails, and cornice moldings. The rest of the dwelling was constructed of frame. In addition, its center-hall plan was an expansion of the hall-and-parlor plan typical of the period.<sup>49</sup>

Batts prospered, creating a prominent shipbuilding business at Broad Creek. Newspaper advertisements from the *Maryland Gazette* provide evidence of his industry. In October and November 1746, Batts advertised the following:

To Be Sold

By the Subscriber at Broad Creek in Prince George's county, a new Schooner, of about 36 Tons, well built for the West-India or Coasting-Trade; well ceil'd [sic], fit for the smallest Grain; nailed, and handsomely finished, with a Scroll Head, fit for a Gentleman's Use. She will stow in the Hold 50 Hogsheads of Tobacco.

Also a Schooner fit for carrying Lumber, Plank, or Tobacco. She will carry under Deck 40 Hogsheads, has an Anchor and Cable, is indifferently rigg'd [sic], fit for a Tobacco Droguer.<sup>50</sup>

In 1747, in response to years of poor prices for Maryland tobacco and numerous complaints from merchants concerning its quality, the General Assembly established a formal system of tobacco inspection and quality control through the passage of the Act for Amending the Staple of Tobacco. Consequently, planters could no

<sup>46</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study*, 13.

<sup>47</sup> By the early 1800s, Livingston Road was established as the main route along the Potomac River between Washington, D.C. and Prince George's County. During the Civil War, the road carried Union troops on patrols from Fort Washington and by the late-nineteenth century, cut a path southward toward Indian Head in Charles County, where the U.S. Navy established a gunpowder factory. The road was paved to accommodate automobiles in the early 1900s. Jackie Spinner, "Historic Twists and Turns," *The Washington Post*, 4 December 1997.

<sup>48</sup> Prince George's County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Prince George's County Deed T: 421, 1736.

<sup>49</sup> Ogilvie and Potomac River Trail Association, *Along the Potomac*, 93.

<sup>50</sup> *Maryland Gazette*, October and November 1746.

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longer sell their tobacco directly to tobacco merchants. Instead, planters brought their crop first to a public tobacco warehouse for inspection and grading, after which, the hogsheads could be stored, and the planters would receive certificates stating the quantity deposited. Tobacco marketing thus moved away from all the small local landings and became concentrated at the sites of these warehouses. The Act specified "Broad Creek, on the Land of Humphrey Batts," as the location of one of the county's seven inspection warehouses.<sup>51</sup>

In November 1749, Humphrey Batts appeared before the Prince George's County Circuit Court to request two-thousand pounds of tobacco for erecting and completing a warehouse "agreeable for Inspecting Tobacco at Broad Creek with a wharf and crane."<sup>52</sup> In addition, Batts had cut a "Channel upwards of one hundred yards to be more Convenient and Commodious to said Ware House."<sup>53</sup> This canal was likely hand-dug by African-American slaves and English settlers, running past the Want Water dwelling. The canal most likely provided direct access from the Potomac River to a probable series of tobacco warehouses, a huge lifting crane, and shipbuilding sheds located northeast of the Broad Creek estuary. In addition, a long paved road, constructed of square brick pavers, purportedly stretched the length of the canal from Want Water northward to St. John's Church.<sup>54</sup>

This system of tobacco inspection seemed to work as the planters themselves sought its renewal in subsequent assembly sessions. The towns also benefited for they profited from the increased activity that the warehouses brought them. In the summer of 1749, Batts erected a tobacco storehouse and advertised it for lease in the *Maryland Gazette* for June and July 1749:

To be Let

A New well-built Store-House, 24 Feet in Length, with a good Shed-Room to the frame, situated near Broad-Creek in Prince George's County, not more than 30 Yards from a good Landing, and near the Inspecting-House and Country Road. Any Gentlemen inclinable to take the same, may, for further particulars, apply to Humphry Batt [sic].

N.B. there is but one Store between Piscataway and the Head of Eastern Branch.<sup>55</sup>

These advertisements not only provide insight into the development of Aire, but also provide evidence that, at least legally, the Potomac River port town was known as Broad Creek and scarcely referenced as Aire. They also indicate that Broad Creek was developing as an active commercial center. Ferry service was provided to and from Virginia across the Potomac River at a narrow point in the river near Broad Creek.<sup>56</sup> The county sheriff included Broad Creek on his regular stops for the collection of fees, including county levies, clergy dues, and lawyer's fees. Between 1737 and 1772, at least twelve individuals were issued licenses for the operation of

<sup>51</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study*, 16.

<sup>52</sup> Prince George's County Court Records, Liber LL (August 1749-November 1750).

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> Interview with Richard Krueger and David Turner, Broad Creek Historic District Advisory Committee, December 16, 2009. Notes on file in Owings Mills, Maryland.

<sup>55</sup> *Maryland Gazette*, June and July 1749.

<sup>56</sup> *Maryland Gazette*, August 5, 1746.



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"ordinaries," or taverns, in Broad Creek. Taverns served as the center of commercial villages, accommodating not only travelers, but providing gathering places for the exchange of local news and opinion, and the conduct of business between merchants, buyers, planters, and factors.<sup>57</sup> The existence of these taverns in Broad Creek provides evidence to the growth and activity of the port town during the mid-eighteenth century.<sup>58</sup>

Growth of Broad Creek and the Revolutionary War, Including Construction of Harmony Hall and the Fourth St. John's Church, 1760-1783

Humphrey Batts died in 1757, after which his property at Want Water was conveyed to his son-in-law Richard Barnes. In 1761, Barnes sold the property to Enoch Magruder, a merchant, businessman, and extensive landowner in the Broad Creek community.<sup>59</sup> Magruder owned a warehouse in Broad Creek in addition to a considerable amount of land around the port town at Broad Creek, including Want Water and land to the north along Broad Creek, to the south along Clash Creek, and the one-hundred westernmost acres of Battersea that adjoined the port town. In addition, Magruder owned substantial acreage to the south and east of Battersea, on the road toward Piscataway, and several other large plantations in other parts of Prince George's County.<sup>60</sup>

Magruder's warehouse at the edge of Broad Creek, in addition to his acquisition of Want Water, afforded Magruder close proximity to the prominent Battersea tract. The property was under cultivation by James Marshall, who purchased the one hundred-acre Battersea in 1761 from James Tyler, grandson of William Tyler.<sup>61</sup> Magruder acquired the one hundred-acre Battersea property in 1769, while he most likely resided at Want Water.

Magruder subsequently undertook various improvements at Battersea. Fire early in the eighteenth century purportedly destroyed the earlier earth-fast dwelling constructed by the Lewis family.<sup>62</sup> Although some claim that the two-and-one-half-story brick dwelling, later called Harmony Hall, was built ca. 1723, based on the instability of occupation from 1723 to the 1760s as well as existing architectural detailing and evidence, Harmony Hall was most likely constructed ca. 1769 shortly after Magruder's legal acquisition of the property.<sup>63</sup>

<sup>57</sup> Prince George's County Court Records, 1747-1772.

<sup>58</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study*, 18.

<sup>59</sup> Prince George's County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Prince George's County deed RR: 142; Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study*, 19. In 1763, Magruder ordered the resurvey of Want Water. Although he purchased approximately thirty-five acres from Richard Barnes, the resurvey revealed that the original tract of Want Water only included approximately 26.75 acres. The resurvey also revealed that there was a twenty-acre parcel of unpatented land between Want Water and the Little Hall tract to the north. As a result of the resurvey, Magruder's holdings became a larger 46.75 acres to include the unpatented tract, which Magruder renamed Want Water Enlarged. This included the dwelling at Want Water, a modest twelve-by-eight foot frame dwelling, one apple tree, and three-hundred fence logs on the twenty-acre unpatented plot.

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study*, 18.

<sup>61</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study*, 19.

<sup>62</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study*, 21.

<sup>63</sup> Sonderman, Virta, Nickels, and Potter, *Archeology at Harmony Hall: Exploring the Late Seventeenth-Century Frontier of Maryland*, 13.

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Magruder commissioned the construction of a two-and-one-half-story, side-gable, Georgian-style dwelling, measuring fifty six-feet long and one-room deep. The interior plan featured a large center hall with an elegant open stairway, flanked by parlors. The interior finishing contained Georgian-style detailing in the cornices, chair rails, paneling, cornices, stair cases, and fireplace surrounds.<sup>64</sup>

A few years prior to the construction of Harmony Hall, St. John's Church at Broad Creek was enlarged. At the end of 1763, the governor and assembly responded to the Vestry's request and approved a levy upon the taxables of the Parish for the necessary enlargements.<sup>65</sup> During 1764 and the early part of 1765, the Vestry solicited proposals for construction and, in April 1765, contracted with Thomas Cleland to build a full-length addition to the 1723 brick church by extending the north and west walls and building new walls on the east and south elevations. Ten months later, in February 1766, the plans were changed, and the Vestry authorized Cleland "to have the whole of the old brick taken down" and to complete an entirely new building. The new bricks were purportedly made on the church grounds. In 1768, Cleland finished the new structure (extant to the present day), which measured thirty-eight feet by sixty-three feet, with a hipped roof and a ten-foot square west porch. The Vestry records indicate that Enoch Magruder was closely involved in the planning and financing of the new church construction.<sup>66</sup>

As tensions mounted between the colonists and British authorities, things began changing for the active port towns along the Potomac River as well as throughout the entire Chesapeake region. The resolutions of the first Continental Congress ceased the importation of British goods by December 1774 and halted American exports to Britain by September 1775. Trade at the Potomac River port towns continued as practicality allowed, but the battles at Lexington and Concord in the spring of 1775 marked a turning point, after which planters of Southern Prince George's County recognized that war was inevitable and that the booming tobacco trade was coming to an end. Consequently, planters scaled back their cultivation of tobacco that spring, instead planting their fields largely with flax and corn. The tobacco crop harvested in 1775 went largely unsold.<sup>67</sup>

Enoch Magruder and his son-in-law, Colonel William Lyles, became active patriots during the American Revolution. Magruder served on the Committee of Observation for Prince George's County in 1775, and later on a committee to raise supplies for the Continental Army. Colonel Lyles, a wealthy Charles County planter, was a personal friend of General George Washington and did patriot service in the Revolutionary War. While many at Broad Creek supported the War of Independence, the battles at Lexington and Concord prompted many of the British factors (those who transacted business on behalf of another) to leave their stores and sail to England. Reverend Henry Addison, serving as rector of St. John's Church since 1742, fled Broad Creek and remained in England during most of the Revolutionary War. Interestingly, Reverend Addison returned to Broad Creek after the War, and continued to serve as rector of St. John's until his death in 1789.<sup>68</sup>

<sup>64</sup> Edmund J. Fitzgerald and Gary Scott, *Harmony Hall National Register of Historic Places Nomination*.

<sup>65</sup> *Maryland Gazette*, 1 December 1763.

<sup>66</sup> Vestry records of King George's Parish, Vol. 1, 1693-1779, 182-255. On file at the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

<sup>67</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study*, 22.

<sup>68</sup> Maryland Historical Society, *Maryland Historical Magazine*, Vol. 14 (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1919), 397-399. On April 14, 1781, the militia scurried with the British from ships on the Potomac River at Colonel Lyles' fishing landing. Eleven British prisoners were held at Broad Creek and then sent on to Annapolis, Archives of Maryland, Volume XLIX: 192.

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According to local traditions, General and later President George Washington had connections to St. John's Church and attended services at the church when bad roads would prevent him from traveling to his church in Virginia. General Washington purportedly would travel from Mount Vernon up the Potomac River and Broad Creek in his multi-oared barge. Reverend Jonathan Boucher, a friend of General Washington and tutor to Martha Washington's son, Jack Custis, served as curate for St. John's Church from late 1772 until 10 September 1775. Walter Dulany Addison, who served as rector of St. John's from 1801 to 1809, officiated at President Washington's funeral in December 1799. Descendants of the Magruder family also claim that General Washington used Harmony Hall as a guest house for those friends and visitors he could not accommodate at Mount Vernon.<sup>69</sup>

The end of the Revolutionary War coincided with the end of the tobacco inspection station system, and an active and dependable tobacco trade. This provided an impetus for the decline of the port town at Broad Creek as well as other port towns established by the 1706 Act. In addition, the rise of Baltimore as the Chesapeake area's principal market and the overwhelming siltation of the river tributaries also contributed to the decline. Siltation clogged the tributaries so that commerce became limited, despite the enactment of a new tobacco inspection system in 1816. Consequently, many of the tobacco warehouses were disbanded and sold, the market shifted to Baltimore, and water transport of tobacco and other crops was soon replaced by the railroad. By the end of the eighteenth century, Broad Creek was already in a state of decline as a prominent commercial center. The economic base of Broad Creek shifted from tobacco to edible crop farming and fishing. The latter provided the major economic base for Broad Creek to persevere throughout the nineteenth century; however, it would never again see the growth, settlement, and prosperity it afforded when the tobacco industry and water navigation and transport were in its prime.<sup>70</sup>

#### *Equestrian Heritage*

Horse breeding, racing, and exhibiting has been an important part of Broad Creek from the colonial era to the present. The foundation of American horse breeding was accomplished by early Maryland residents, including families in Broad Creek. Names such as Messinger and Addison are important in the lore of Thoroughbred owners and horses in the eighteenth century.<sup>71</sup>

#### Overview of Broad Creek, 1783-1850

Enoch Magruder remained a prominent citizen in Broad Creek until his death in August 1786. Upon his death, Want Water was bequeathed to his daughter, Sarah, and her husband, William Lyles. The Lyles lived at Want

<sup>69</sup> "Historical Notes, King George's Parish, St. John's, Broad Creek," Broad Creek Vertical File. Frederick S. DeMarr Library, Greenbelt, Maryland.

<sup>70</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study*, 22-23.

<sup>71</sup> Francis Barnum Culver, *Blooded Horses of Colonial Days* (Baltimore: Francis Barnum Culver, 1922), 28, 76. Local historian Charles Collins writes of steeplechase races being conducted between Want Water house and the church in Broad Creek. When Collins transformed Harmony Hall into a gentleman's farm in the 1920s, he imported notable Tennessee Walking Horses from family farms in Alabama. In recent decades, various equestrians have maintained and bred horses in Broad Creek.



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Water, while Harmony Hall was used as a rectory for St. John's Church, housing Reverend Messenger beginning in 1785 until 1791.<sup>72</sup>

In February 1792, Dennis Magruder, brother of Sarah Magruder Lyles, ran an advertisement in a Georgetown newspaper proclaiming, "Dennis Magruder will rent his dwelling house on Broad Creek in Maryland, within five miles of Alexandria; the house is 56 feet long, two stories high, with good cellars, nursery, kitchen, carriage house, and stable."<sup>73</sup> The house was rented to Walter Dulaney Addison (who became rector of St. John's Church) and his brother John Addison, who along with their brides rented the property for one year while their home, Oxon Hill, was rented to Nathaniel Washington, a relative of President George Washington. Local tradition holds that as the couples left their temporary home, Mrs. Walter Dulaney Addison observed that since the two couples shared the home so harmoniously, it should be called "Harmony Hall," the name that continues to the present day.<sup>74</sup>

By the early decades of the nineteenth century, planters were diversifying their crops, as tobacco was superseded by the cultivation of grains, fodder, and orchards. Members of the Magruder and Lyles families operated large plantations at Broad Creek as well as inland near growing population centers such as Upper Marlboro. Sarah Magruder and her family lived at Want Water but also maintained ownership of Harmony Hall/Battersea.<sup>75</sup> In 1795, Colonel Lyles transferred ownership of his wife's inherited estates (Want Water and Battersea) to himself.<sup>76</sup> Upon his death in 1815, he bequeathed the Want Water property and part of the Battersea acreage to his son, Thomas C. Lyles. Harmony Hall and a surrounding forty acres were conveyed to another of his sons, Dennis Magruder Lyles, who operated a fishery a short distance to the southwest at the confluence of Broad Creek and the Potomac River.<sup>77</sup>

Brief History of Broad Creek, 1850-1920<sup>78</sup>

By the middle of the nineteenth century, the growth and settlement at Broad Creek was outpaced by inland communities. The town structure gave way to a loose collection of individual farms and plantations. The only

<sup>72</sup> Phyllis L. Cox, *Yearbook 1987-1988* (Fort Washington, Maryland: Harmony Hall National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, September/October 1987), 4.

<sup>73</sup> *Georgetown Weekly Ledger*, 4 February 1792.

<sup>74</sup> Cox, *Yearbook 1987-1988*, 4.

<sup>75</sup> Helen O'Leary, "Broad Creek Ripples," *Enquirer-Gazette* (Upper Marlboro, Maryland), October 1958-March 1959. A memorable story tied to that of Broad Creek involves Sarah's son, Enoch Magruder Lyles, who died in a duel in 1805. While attending a dance one evening, a young lady, cousin of Lyles, was offended by a remark made by a young gentleman cousin, whereupon, Colonel Lyles ordered one of his sons to challenge the offender to a duel. Enoch Magruder Lyles stepped up to the challenge, and the duel was held the following morning on the dueling grounds across the Potomac River in Virginia. Colonel Lyles watched through field glasses from Want Water as his son lost the duel. Enoch Lyles was buried at St. John's Cemetery.

<sup>76</sup> A straw transaction is any purchase whereby the purchaser is knowingly acquiring the property for someone who, for whatever reason, is unable to purchase the property themselves.

<sup>77</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study*, 25. It was most likely during the ownership and occupation of Dennis Magruder Lyles that the Greek Revival-detailing, including pediment and oculus window were applied to Harmony Hall.

<sup>78</sup> This section is summarized from Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study*, 24-32, except where noted.

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evidence of Broad Creek on maps from the period are through the location of St. John's Church, indicated on the Martenet 1861 Map and Hopkins 1878 Atlas as "Broad Creek Church."<sup>79</sup> The nearest post office was located at Fort Washington, a major Potomac River fortification located approximately three miles to the south. The immediate area around Broad Creek remained undeveloped and agricultural, largely relying on the fisheries for its commercial livelihood. Towns and villages along the railroads that traversed the county by the late-nineteenth century grew to commercial centers, and consequently, dependence upon the river for communication and commerce decreased; however, the railroads neglected southwestern Prince George's County, including Broad Creek, and this area still heavily relied on those waterways that remained navigable and overland routes traveled by horse, stagecoach, and wagon.

Although Broad Creek was not directly touched by the Civil War, it experienced significant changes felt throughout Prince George's County. During the decades leading up to the Civil War, Broad Creek experienced a movement towards the manumission of slaves by several residents at the urging of St. John's rector, himself an opponent of slavery. After the end of the Civil War, many of the newly freed African-American families stayed in the Broad Creek area and worked on small tenant farms. Consequently, many properties were broken into smaller farms, passing through a series of short-term owners, as evident by the subsequent series of ownership at Want Water and Harmony Hall.

The area surrounding Harmony Hall and Want Water in the late-nineteenth century was characterized by small farms that cultivated food for family consumption as well for the Washington, D.C., markets. The estuary of Broad Creek became a major source of gravel, with constant dredging to supply the new industry. Several large fisheries reported to include tremendous volumes of herring, shad, catfish, eels, and sturgeon, dotted Broad Creek and provided their products to fish markets in Washington, D.C., and Alexandria.

During the years immediately following the Civil War, the house at Want Water and sixty acres to the north were owned by the family of John Jacob Sellner, a family which emigrated from Germany. The Sellners and members of the Pfiel family, who farmed land to the north and east of Want Water, appear to be the first group of German immigrants who brought new growth and activity to the Broad Creek community.

No extant buildings that date to the nineteenth century remain within Broad Creek. The next wave of development did not occur until the early twentieth-century through the efforts of Charles Collins and the establishment of the community of Silesia. This community is located adjacent to the southern end of the historic district and includes twentieth-century residential and commercial buildings.

Silesia, 1875-1920s<sup>80</sup>

In 1875, Robert Stein, a young man from Silesia, Prussia, immigrated to the United States to complete studies at Georgetown University. After graduating, he began teaching in Washington, D.C., and, along with his brother,

<sup>79</sup> Simon J. Martenet, *Map of Prince George's County, Maryland* (Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet, C.E., 1861); G.M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, Including the County of Prince George Maryland*, (Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1878).

<sup>80</sup> The following is summarized from Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study*, 31-35, except where noted.

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Richard, began purchasing several hundred acres of land in the Broad Creek area in the 1890s. In 1892, Robert Stein acquired Harmony Hall, after which he persuaded many of his family to immigrate to Maryland. Two sisters of Robert and Richard Stein, Selma Stein Adler and Anna Stein Tilch, came from Prussia with their families and resided in Harmony Hall. The Steins lived at Harmony Hall and farmed the property into the first decade of the twentieth century when they began to build their own houses on parts of the Stein family acreage.<sup>81</sup> During the early decades of the twentieth century, Richard Stein, along with his nephew, Bernard Tilch, lived and farmed Harmony Hall, while Robert Stein resided in Washington, D.C. Richard Stein purchased property to the east of Harmony Hall, on the other side of Livingston Road, and subsequently erected two small one-story dwellings for members of his family.<sup>82</sup>

Overview of Broad Creek, Including the Collins Era and the Relocation of Piscataway House, 1920s-1942<sup>83</sup>

In the late 1920s, a small family farm operation began north of the present-day Piscataway House property. In 1927, George Norman Roland, a grandson of John Jacob Sellner who lived at Want Water, received a 13.3-acre parcel from his grandfather's estate. Roland subsequently began a small truck farming operation on his land. Shortly after 1927, Roland erected a small frame cottage, and for two generations, the Roland family grew vegetables and melons and took them to market in Washington, D.C. As his children started families of their own, Roland subdivided small dwelling lots from his larger farm property; three dwellings were erected on the west side of Livingston Road during the 1940s.

This era of Broad Creek's history is mainly associated with the Collins family, who moved to the area in the late 1920s. Charles Wallace Collins, an attorney from Alabama, came to Washington, D.C., just before World War I. Beginning in 1915, he worked in the Legislative Reference Service of the Library of Congress, during which he served as librarian to the Supreme Court. He was also legal adviser to the Senate and House committees selected to devise a budget. Consequently, Collins assisted in drafting the Budget and Accounting Act, adopted by Congress in 1921. This Act established the centralized budget system for the federal government and set up the Bureau of the Budget, within which Collins became the first general counsel.<sup>84</sup> Collins then became general counsel for the Comptroller of the Currency before leaving public life in 1927 to resume his private law practice. He served as general counsel to the Transamerica Corporation and the Bank of America until his retirement in 1947. In addition, he authored many books and articles on constitutional law,

<sup>81</sup> Robert Stein, using his Eskimo language skills, provided support for a number of Admiral Robert Peary's Arctic expeditions.

<sup>82</sup> The land owned by the Stein-Adler-Tilch family included the old White Horse Tavern situated on the old Alexandria road, south of Harmony Hall. In 1903, a part of the old tavern was torn down, and Richard Stein erected a new grocery and feed store in its stead. The remaining section of the old tavern was converted into a washhouse, and a dwelling was built next door for use by the Tilch family, members of whom continue to operate the store complex to the present day. The store was the only of its kind in the area and became an important community landmark. The complex also included a blacksmith's shop located across the road to the south, the nearby post office, and the Silesia schoolhouse a little farther south. The complex expanded to include a liquor store/tavern built in the 1930s, the replacement of the 1903 store in the 1940s, the construction of a new liquor store in 1979, and the opening of a new pet food and feed store in the old liquor store in the early 1980s.

<sup>83</sup> The following is summarized from Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study*, 32-38, except where noted.

<sup>84</sup> "Charles W. Collins Dies, Work Led to Budget Act," *Washington Evening Star*, 16 December 1964.



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banking law, and states rights, which became influential in the organization of the Dixiecrats in the presidential election of 1948.<sup>85</sup>

Charles Collins had a passionate interest in history and archeology, having previously restored two eighteenth-century dwellings in Georgetown. By the late 1920s, he was interested in acquiring a rural property on which to establish a country estate outside of but in proximity to Washington, D.C. Collins recalled that he was learning to drive on the old unpaved Piscataway-Alexandria stage road (portions of present-day Livingston Road) when he first saw Harmony Hall. After several months of negotiations, he purchased forty-one acres of the Harmony Hall property, including the brick dwelling, from Richard Stein on March 21, 1929. The conveyance also included "a right of way to, and the use of, a certain well situate on the remaining land of said Richard Stein, located on the State Road directly across from 'Harmony Hall,' as a means of water supply."<sup>86</sup>

When Charles Collins and his wife, Sue, purchased Harmony Hall, the house was in deteriorated condition. Collins noted that the Stein family used most of the dwelling for agricultural purposes; the parlor served as a fish-drying room, and corn and meal were stored in the uppermost floor. An infestation of rats created a network of runways through the brick foundations; however, Collins noted that Richard Stein took particular care with the wood details of the dwelling, indicating that the floors, mantels, paneling, chair rails, cupboards, cornices, and distinguished staircase were in "perfect condition." Consequently, Collins was able to restore the original wood floors, paneling, and staircase details, and to appropriately replace the hardware that was lost. He also repointed the brickwork and repaired the rodent-damaged foundation. Collins introduced electricity and running water to the house, and employed a young boy fulltime to keep the fireplaces going, which provided the heat from 1930 to 1941. After nearly two years of restorative work, Charles and Sue Collins moved into Harmony Hall in the fall of 1930.<sup>87</sup>

Collins installed an electric warm-air system by creating channels in the brick walls for vents and disguising them with applied plaster. He and his wife embellished the grounds surrounding the mansion with a terraced lawn, ha-ha (a stone trench meant to keep livestock from wandering up to the dwelling), and cypress walk. In this agricultural period, Collins also erected two sizeable structures to house poultry, cattle, and horses. He also introduced southern pine tree clusters in the northwestern section of the property. He also added the additions to the south elevation in subsequent years. From 1929 through 1932, Collins purchased three parcels of land, each measuring 13.3 acres, from the Sellner family, including the Want Water dwelling that was unoccupied and in deteriorating condition. Although Collins recognized the building as an early and notable example of Colonial architecture, he was unable to carry out plans to restore the dwelling.<sup>88</sup> Even though Collins stabilized the building in 1938, it continued to deteriorate so that by the time of his death in 1964, only the brick gambrel-end walls remained. Upon his death on December 14, 1964 at Harmony Hall, Collins' property passed to his wife, Sue.

<sup>85</sup> Charles Wallace Collins Papers, Special Collections, Hornbake Library, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland; as noted from the Broad Creek files of Susan Pearl, Prince George's County Historian.

<sup>86</sup> Prince George's County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Prince George's County Deed Book 326: 376, 1929.

<sup>87</sup> Charles Wallace Collins Papers, Special Collections, Hornbake Library, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland; as noted from the Broad Creek files of Susan Pearl, Prince George's County Historian.

<sup>88</sup> Want Water was documented in 1935 by the newly established Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS). Want Water and Harmony Hall were carefully photographed and measured drawings of floor plans, elevations, and decorative details were produced.

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*Piscataway House*

In 1932, Charles Collins began plans to move and reassemble Piscataway House, a ca.-1750 dwelling located four miles to the south in the village of Piscataway, to one of his newly acquired Sellner parcels. Collins had discovered that the timber-frame dwelling located on the main road through Piscataway was slated for demolition as part of a proposed road widening. Collins acquired the dwelling for the price of moving it from the site.

Piscataway House was constructed ca. 1750 by George Parker immediately west of the Hardy Tavern on the south side of the main road through Piscataway. The one-and-one-half-story dwelling occupied a lot that ranged from 1.25 acres to 7.5 acres in size throughout its history. An equity deed from 1932 proclaimed that the dwelling was uninhabitable at the time that Collins acquired the house from the heirs of Henrietta Ward.<sup>89</sup> Upon his acquisition, Collins had interior and exterior architectural drawings and photographs made of the dwelling, followed by the disassembly of the entire building, including its massive brick chimneys, numbering each piece for reassembly.<sup>90</sup>

Collins transported the dwelling, piece by piece, via Broad Creek. In order to access the tract of land on the west side of Livingston Road where the dwelling would be placed, Collins dredged and extended the 1749 canal. The dwelling, dubbed "Piscataway House," was reassembled on a new brick foundation with a commanding view of Broad Creek and the Potomac River.<sup>91</sup> The one-and-one-half-story frame dwelling featured a steeply pitched gable roof extending over the east and west elevations to cover a porch. Two freestanding brick chimneys accentuated each gable end. The southern chimneys are connected by a pent-roof closet. The east and west sides of the roof slope featured three dormer windows accentuated by fluted pilasters, small capitals, and broken pediments. The interior was laid out in a central-hall, double-parlor plan with a prominent central stair. Upon completion of the dwelling, Collins erected an attached kitchen wing at the north gable. A carriage house/apartment was constructed immediately north of Piscataway House in 1948. Subsequent additions, constructed of brick and complimentary to the existing dwelling, were made in the late 1980s by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Savage.<sup>92</sup>

Overview of Broad Creek, Including Establishment of the first County-Designated Historic District, 1942-2010

Although the Broad Creek community remained fairly isolated from the increased development spawned by World War II, the area was still affected by other events occurring during this period. In 1942, construction began on Indian Head Highway (MD 210) in order to provide access to the munitions plant at Indian Head in

<sup>89</sup> Prince George's County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Prince George's County Equity 8628, 1932.

<sup>90</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study*, 34.

<sup>91</sup> Purportedly, Collins used connections in the government to obtain labor for the project through Great Depression-era federal programs; however, this has never been confirmed; Jeff Hileman, "Piscataway House," *South County Current* (Upper Marlboro, Maryland), 31 July 1985.

<sup>92</sup> Rita Zeidner, "A Place Where History Is On Their Side," *The Washington Post*, 29 October 2005. During the administration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Piscataway House was owned by General George Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. According to local legend, President and Mamie Eisenhower would fly by helicopter from the White House into Broad Creek to visit, landing in the field between Piscataway House and Broad Creek.

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Charles County. The line of this north-south highway, located east of the historic district, crisscrossed the alignments of Livingston Road, which served as a principal artery between Piscataway for the Broad Creek community.

New commerce and light industry also appeared in Broad Creek, including the Mills Lumber Company located at the northeast edge of the district. Several new dwellings were erected along Livingston Road, including the development of a seven-acre triangle almost directly across from the Roland family farm complex. In 1948, this property was purchased by the O'Leary family, who subsequently subdivided the acreage and sold several of the small lots. Three dwellings were constructed between 1950 and 1952; however, these dwellings, set back from Livingston Road, shared a common drive in order to preserve the wooded setting.<sup>93</sup>

Increased development characterized the general area surrounding Broad Creek after the construction of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and the Capital Beltway in the early 1960s. Consequently, new residential subdivisions surround all sides of Broad Creek. The congregation of St. John's Episcopal Church increased in size, and a new parish hall and education center as well as a new rectory were constructed in the 1960s. In the summer of 1965, Sue Collins, widow of Charles Collins, sold the southernmost ten acres of the Harmony Hall tract to the Prince George's County Board of Education for use as an elementary school. Harmony Hall Elementary School opened in 1966, but due to budget cuts and decreased enrollment, closed in 1981. The building was enlarged and reopened a few years later as the Harmony Hall Regional Center. In addition, Mrs. Collins sold four acres plus a right-of-way just north of the Harmony Hall property to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission for the erection of a pumping station. Shortly thereafter, a pumping station was erected, followed by an additional building in 1985. The new power generation building for the property was completed in 2009 in the Colonial style.

In 1966, Mrs. Collins sold the remaining 65.7 acres of Harmony Hall to the National Park Service (NPS):

subject to [her] tenancy for life in that portion of the property containing approximately two acres on which is located a two and one-half story brick dwelling known as Harmony Hall, together with auxiliary buildings, and including the drives thereto from Livingston Road and a right-of-way to Broad Creek."<sup>94</sup>

The NPS acquired the property as part of a right-of-way for the George Washington Memorial Parkway on the Maryland side of the Potomac, which never came to fruition. From 1985-1987, the NPS undertook archeological investigations at the Harmony Hall property. They uncovered the remains of the charred earth-fast dwelling, approximately eighteen-feet wide by thirty-two feet long erected by the Lewis family in the 1690s. The archeologists also found more than 25,000 artifacts, including parts of pipes, stones used to ignite

<sup>93</sup> A plot of land, currently called "Freedom Manor" is located adjacent to the south end of the historic district. The property includes a two-story residence originally built by members of the Tilch family in the 1930s. The Dutch Colonial Revival brick structure is now owned by Conrad and Amina Law, who operate it as a conference and training facility as well as a venue for the county's African American heritage-theme events. Included in the Freedom Manor complex is a frame 1920s Sears Modern home.

<sup>94</sup> Prince George's County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Prince George's County Deed 3370: 556, 1966; Sue Collins died in Alabama in April 1983.



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muskets, Delft stoneware, and European beads.<sup>95</sup> In 1998, the NPS undertook stabilization of the Want Water ruins by installing metal braces and capping on the gambrel ends. In 2010, the NPS continues to make plans for the future maintenance and use of the dwelling at Harmony Hall.<sup>96</sup>

Broad Creek was designated the first county historic district under the county's historic preservation ordinance by a Prince George's County Council action on July 30, 1985.<sup>97</sup> The designation was largely spearheaded by long-time community residents, members of the Tanta-Cove Garden Club, and property owners particularly Mrs. Berl Larson, Mrs. Helen O'Leary, Mrs. Phyllis Cox, Mrs. Irene Robb, Mrs. Cynthia Heerwagon, Mr. Carroll Savage, Mrs. Margaret Cook, Reverend John Baldwin, and Mr. Richard Krueger, in order to prevent unregulated development within the community. After public hearings by the Historic Preservation Commission in 1984, the district was designated in July 1985. Pursuant to Subtitle 29, the Historic Preservation Commission appointed a nine-member historic district advisory committee originally of district residents, a business owner, and one representative each from the Tanta-Cove Garden Club, St. John's Church, and the Tantallon Citizens Association. The number was recently expanded to eleven members to include representatives of the Potomac Valley Citizens Association, National Park Service, and Broad Creek Conservancy. The advisory committee assists and advises the Historic Preservation Commission in the performance of its duties and serves as the liaison between the historic district residents and the Historic Preservation Commission. Design guidelines were developed in 1988 to assist property owners in the historic district, the Historic Preservation Commission, and the Historic District Advisory Committee in evaluating plans for alterations to existing buildings and for new construction.<sup>98</sup>

In recent years, a portion of Livingston Road that veered northwest from its present route was blocked off near the northern edge of the St. John's property due to constant flooding and to deter speeding traffic. Traffic-calming speed humps were also installed at various intervals along Livingston Road as a further means of discouraging speeders.

Due in large part to the community's county historic district designation, Broad Creek remains one of the few undeveloped concentrations of woodland in this area of Prince George's County so close to the nation's capital.

Contributing Buildings within Broad Creek Historic District

<sup>95</sup> Eugene L. Meyer, "Area's Oldest House is Unearthed in Pr. George's," *The Washington Post*, 17 June 1986.

<sup>96</sup> In 1988, plans were underway by Mr. Frank Calhoun and Mr. Carlton Huhn to turn Harmony Hall into an equestrian driving center, guest quarters for visiting students, and a Morgan horse-breeding farm, as part of NPS's Historic Sites Leasing Program. A stable erected during their occupancy remains south of the dwelling. Fourteen years later, the NPS asked the partners to vacate the property in 1999. Jennifer Harper, "Harmony Hall," *The Washington Times*, 14 April 1988 and Marc Fisher, "Historic Md. Manor's Deteriorating Situation," *The Washington Post*, 22 June 2008.

<sup>97</sup> To date, only one other county historic district has been designated: Old Town College Park Historic District was designated by County Council action on January 28, 2008.

<sup>98</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study*, 1-3. One example of new construction since the inception of the Historic District Advisory Committee and Design Guidelines is Mieza, located at 10101 Livingston Road. In addition, a small one-and-one-half-story board-and-batten stable was constructed in 1992 to the south of the Mieza dwelling and resembles the appearance of a traditional southern Maryland tobacco barn.



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The Broad Creek Historic District derives part of its historic significance for its collection of eighteenth-century buildings, notable for their exemplification of eighteenth-century forms, styles, and construction methods.

Want Water, constructed ca. 1708, retains the north and south brick walls, which reflect the gambrel shape of the roof. The interior was organized in a hall-parlor plan, typical of the vernacular domestic architecture of the region in the period.

Harmony Hall, constructed ca. 1769, exemplifies the Georgian style of architecture popular from the beginning of the eighteenth century through the Revolutionary War. The Georgian-style dwelling measures two stories in height with a center passage. The style is characterized by formal symmetry embellished with bold Classical detail that includes decorative cornices, paneled doors emphasized by classical surrounds, and projecting horizontal divisions, such as water tables and belt courses. In addition, windows are typically aligned horizontally and vertically.<sup>99</sup>

Statement of Significance and Integrity:

Broad Creek Historic District is significant under Criterion A in the area of exploration and settlement. The district includes the colonial port town of Aire, established in 1706, as well as the site of Prince George's County oldest church, St. John's Episcopal Church, established in 1692. The port town of Aire at Broad Creek and its associated eighteenth-century dwellings and landscape features, including a canal, developed as a result of the thriving tobacco agronomy in the colonial period. This is reflected by the collection of extant eighteenth-century buildings, including St. John's Church (ca. 1766-1768), Harmony Hall (ca. 1769), and Want Water (ca. 1708), as well as the canal, completed by 1749 to provide access from the Potomac River and Broad Creek estuary inland to the tobacco warehouses and inspection station at Aire. The historic district is also significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a notable collection of buildings that reflect distinct architectural styles, building plans, and construction types of the eighteenth century. The district meets Criteria Consideration A for religious properties as St. John's Episcopal Church, the site of the oldest church in Prince George's County, contributes to the significance of the district in the areas of exploration and settlement and also derives its significance from its architectural distinction.

The period of significance begins in 1662, with the patent of the five hundred-acre land grant known as "Battersea," from which the port town at Broad Creek would develop. The period of significance ends in 1783, with the end of the British forage system and the decline of Broad Creek as a prominent tobacco port town.

Integrity

The Broad Creek Historic District consists of a historically related collection of eighteenth-century buildings and sites. The district retains its location adjacent to the Potomac River and Broad Creek estuary, approximately three miles south of Washington, D.C. Although the setting is slightly compromised through twentieth-century development to the north and south, the majority of small twentieth-century dwellings located

<sup>99</sup> Gabrielle M. Lanier and Bernard L. Herman, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic* (Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), 124-126.

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within the district are largely setback from Livingston Road, and most are screened by evergreen and deciduous trees; therefore, these buildings do not greatly detract from the view sheds of the eighteenth-century buildings. In addition, the eighteenth-century buildings are situated on large parcels of land compared to the smaller subdivided plots that contain twentieth-century buildings. The district is cohesively linked by its shared history, which developed as a direct result of the community's access to the waterways as well as the establishment of the port town of Aire at Broad Creek in 1706. The open vistas from the eighteenth-century buildings to the Potomac River, continued use of St. John's Episcopal Church, and the overall rural setting that characterizes the parcels associated with the contributing eighteenth-century features of Broad Creek culminate to convey integrity of feeling, setting, and association. The number of interspersed modern buildings and features that post-date the period of significance (1662-1783) do not detract from the cohesion and integrity of the district in its entirety.

For a list of contributing and non-contributing properties within the district, see the attached Building Inventory.

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**ADDENDUM** prepared by David A. Turner, Chair of the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission, in response to State Review Board comments.

On February 22, 2011, Maryland's State Review Board recommended approval of the nomination of Broad Creek Historic District (BCHD) for National Register designation. During the panel's discussion, members noted at least three notable areas that relate to early Broad Creek settlement (1662 to 1783) and that may be of interest to future researchers.

These three topics were: (1) Landscape features that bond the District's actual contributing features and their views into a colonial unit; (2) examples of agricultural practices that link Broad Creek's town site and church to its farming and commercial-fishing surroundings, and; (3) noting the archeological discoveries made to date, and outlining the possibility that future surveys in the BCHD promise to reveal additional information about early colonial life along the Potomac adjacent to the future nation's capitol. This settlement occurred prior to similar phases in the chartering of Georgetown, Alexandria, Piscataway and Bladensburg.

**COLONIAL LANDSCAPE:**

The proposed rural historic district was an agricultural and commercial fishing community that supported its port/trading town, which was established approximately midway through the District's period of significance. The town was chartered in 1706, the same year as Williamsburg. Broad Creek's farms eventually stretched as far south as Swan Creek (3 miles south) where the Lyles family living at Harmony Hall mansion operated outlying farms and a Potomac River ferry crossing, and where some of them eventually were interred (at Tent Landing/Bachelors Harbour). To the north, the agricultural landscape stretched toward the estates that would line Maryland's side of the Potomac River, including Rosier, the Baynes' 19<sup>th</sup> century Salubria and, of course, Oxon Hill. These important farming families (as well as many smaller ones) contributed to social, commercial, and religious life in the town of Aire/Broad Creek, and its surroundings.

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With the exception of NPS' Oxon Hill Farm north of BCHD and MNCP&PC's Riverview archeology field south of BCHD these early agricultural areas have been residentially subdivided due to their proximity to the metropolitan center. However, the original agricultural landscape is still largely preserved as unspoiled open and wooded space inside the boundaries of the proposed NR district. Lyles, Magraders and others living at Harmony Hall and Wantwater developed tobacco and trade crops on their farms surrounding the town, then transported them to the storehouses and the inspection process at Broad Creek. They did so by via a canal that survives as a cultural landscape component, one of the oldest extant hand-dug commercial channels still existing in North America (eventually paid for by the colonial legislature to Mr. Batts in 1748), and also by using roadways that further comprised the commercial and physical landscape of the colonial district.

In 2003, NPS crews stabilizing the Want Water structure revealed stretches of a paved roadway now buried 6 inches underground. It is comprised of 5x5" square, redbrick pavers and -- what makes them unique to Broad Creek in the region -- of a 4" depth. The paver roadway went directly along the Creek to the warehouse area (now part of Piscataway House's horse pasture). Other paved segments of this colonial roadway that define one of BCHD's colonial landscapes are scattered along what is now an estuary as it winds along the old creekbed towards St. John's church. These satellite brick outcroppings may have been built in spots where washout or erosion required a supplement to a natural-surface roadway. This landscape roadway stretches most of the length of the proposed BCHD, and would eventually provide part of a land route to the later town at Bladensburg.

A roadway landscape feature to the south of the town and to its east is a likely land trail to Piscataway Village. A discernable roadbed (as it remains inside BCHD) climbs from Want Water house, up an elevation and past the 1690s archeological remains of the oldest known homesite along the Potomac so close to the DC area (see *Archeology at Harmony Hall*, U. of Michigan Press). It likely proceeded past the site of the colonial Inn of the White Horse.

### COLONIAL AGRICULTURE, COMMERCIAL FISHING AND SHIPBUILDING

Along with the agricultural operations documented above, noteworthy colonial industries included sturgeon fishery along Slash Creek inside the BCHD boundaries, and shipbuilding concerns known from documentary sources and likely located within the colonial town site.

Another agricultural activity that utilized the remarkably expansive and still undeveloped 455 acres of the BCHD was horse production. This colonial activity defined Broad Creek and continues to do so 350 years later. As in Alexandria, Port Tobacco and Piscataway, Broad Creek horse breeding and usage took a remarkable turn in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. For example, horse racing -- both on a flat track well as point-to-point -- required a better stock of horse than the descendants of early Maryland imports. Toward Piscataway Village (chartered seven miles to the south in 1708) a colonial race track was installed sometime after the purchase of St. James plantation acreage in Piscataway by the then-rector of Broad Creek's church. *Blooded Horses of Colonial Days*, by F. B. Culver (Baltimore, 1922) points out that the track, and the impact such facilities had on surrounding horse breeders, were culturally important. Early racing venues were not always permanent tracks like Piscataway's. Racing events migrated through Broad Creek town, according to St. John's historian Phyllis Cox, especially on civic gathering days conducted on the church grounds, or during secular festivals there.

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Much improved horse breeding -- like other agricultural industries -- occurred during the BCHD period of significance. Such events likely were conducted by important farmers such as those at Harmony Hall. At Broad Creek, according to Cox, the racing route stretched from the town, along the Creek, to the church. They were a form of the English steeplechase.

To accommodate this industry, breeding stallions and mares were leased and transported throughout the region. In addition to new types of racing bloodstock, farmers along the Potomac, as far south as Port Tobacco, developed farm equines such as the mule. Broad Creek residents likely participated in this segment of the industry as well.

Production of horses, and perhaps mules, helped define early Broad Creek. Remarkably, it continues to this day, at a distance of fewer than nine miles from today's U.S. Capitol Building. Period advertisements in the Alexandria Gazette testify to the viability of these new agricultural products in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Stallions such as the British import Obscurity were circuit-leased and moved each season among horse farmers. The movement of the new style bloodstock in this region typically occurred from south and east to north and west. Imported stock often moved from Virginian owners in Williamsburg and Dinwiddie to Alexandria through the Potomac River farmers at places like Harmony Hall, and was soon being purchased and bred on a much larger and more serious scale by enthusiasts in Upper Marlboro, Baltimore and elsewhere. Although on a smaller scale than in those locales (and eventually in Kentucky), American equine historian Lynn Weatherman contends this agricultural experiment in Maryland made its introduction along the Potomac River.

**ARCHEOLOGY:**

Surveys conducted in the BCHD by the National Park Service have evidenced the settlements of Woodland era Indians in the BCHD strikingly similar to those mapped by Captain John Smith on his voyage up the Potomac. He mapped three Indian villages on Broad Creek's bay at the Potomac. Two of Smith's village sites are in the boundaries of the proposed District. Verification of prehistoric life within the boundaries of the proposed NR district was dated to 10,000 B.C.

Unlike any other locale in the region, BCHD's proximity to DC, the intensity of its colonial trade and agricultural development, and its largely pristine lack of modern development makes it a prime archeological target for discovering how life evolved in what would emerge as the national capital region. Future archeological investigations here have the potential to elucidate how three cultures -- European/southern Maryland settlers, early African American slaves and Native Americans -- lived and interacted side-by-side near what would become Washington, DC.



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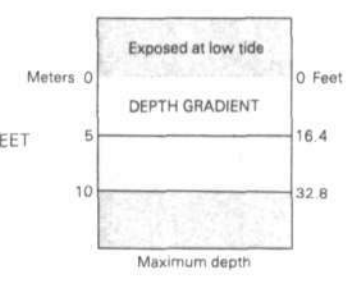
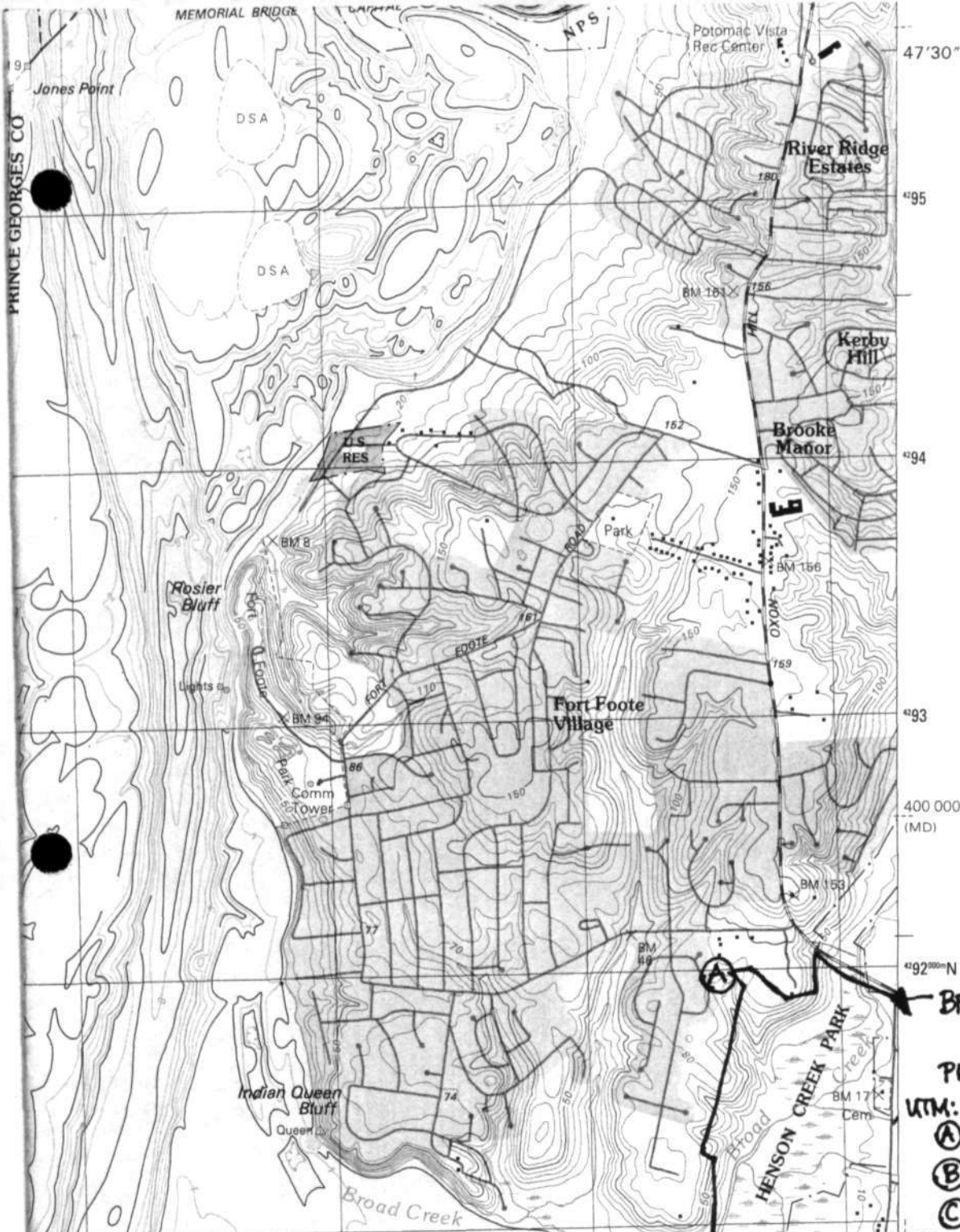
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Property Address	Historic Name/MIHP number (Previously Identified Resource)	Owner Name/Address	Acres	Date of Construction	Architectural Style	Resource Type	Contributing/Non- Contributing Status
9601 LIVINGSTON ROAD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744		DONES, RICARDO C & ADORA R 9601 LIVINGSTON ROAD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	0.4800	1939	Cape Cod	Dwelling	Non-Contributing; post- dates period of significance
9611 LIVINGSTON ROAD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20774		JONES COMMUNICATION OF MARYLAND COMCAST CORP. PROPERTY TAX DEPT. 1500 MARKET STREET, SUITE 3600, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102	1.2500	1984	Commercial; Comcast Building	Commercial	Non-Contributing; post- dates period of significance
9612 LIVINGSTON ROAD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20774		MAJETTE, THOMAS & SYLVIA 9612 LIVINGSTON ROAD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20774	0.7050	1964	Cape Cod	Dwelling	Non-Contributing; post- dates period of significance
9700 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744		STINTSON, JAMES M & RAYMOND R DADE 14570 CARRINGTON PL HUGHESVILLE, MD 20637	2.0590	1948	Commercial; Mills Lumber	Commercial	Non-Contributing; post- dates period of significance
9800 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744		VESTRY OF KING GEORGES PARISH 9801 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	3.9034	1962	Colonial Revival	Dwelling; Church Rectory	Non-Contributing; post- dates period of significance
9801 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	St. John's Episcopal Church (PG: 80- 024-07)	VESTRY OF KING GEORGE'S PARISH 9801 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	6.0000	ca. 1768	Georgian	Ecclesiastical	Contributing
						Cemetery	Contributing
9801 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744		VESTRY OF KING GEORGE'S PARISH 9801 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744		1966	Colonial Revival	Church Hall and Education Center	Non-Contributing; post- dates period of significance
10101 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744		TURNER, DAVID A 10101 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	4.8700	1992	Tidewater Revival	Dwelling	Non-Contributing; post- dates period of significance
10110 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744		OLEARY, HELEN H 10110 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	2.0100	1952	Side-gabled cottage	Dwelling	Non-Contributing; post- dates period of significance

10114 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744		TAYLOR, CHARLES J & SIEGFRIED W ISING 10114 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	1.7500	1950	Ranch	Dwelling	Non-Contributing; post dates period of significance
10118 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744		FLETCHER, PHYLLIS S 10118 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	2.0000	1953	Altered Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	Non-Contributing; post dates period of significance
10205 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744		SAUTTER, L JAMES 10205 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	1.1060	1927	Gable Front	Dwelling	Non-Contributing; post dates period of significance
10211 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744		SCOTT, HOLLY B 10211 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	1.0854	1948	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	Non-Contributing; post dates period of significance
10215 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744		CLEMENTS, ADRIAN 5507 NOBLE EFFORT CT BOWIE, MD 20720	0.6778	1948	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	Non-Contributing; post dates period of significance
10300 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744		HORTON, BILLY W & GLORIA E 10300 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	1.0340	1954	Side-gabled cottage	Dwelling	Non-Contributing; post dates period of significance
10301 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744		SCOTT, RICHARD L 10301 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	0.8780	1941	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	Non-Contributing; post dates period of significance
10307 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	Piscataway House (PG: 80-024-09)	SAVAGE, CARROLL J & JANE M 10307 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	9.2624	ca. 1750; moved to present site ca. 1932; 1950; 1980	Colonial	Dwelling	Non-Contributing; post dates period of significance
10310 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744		AURE, BENJAMIN F & MARIA E M 10310 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	1.1619	1997	Gable Front	Dwelling	Non-Contributing; post dates period of significance
10314 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744		ATKINS, GENIE 10314 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	1.1618	1920	Clipped, Gable- Front	Dwelling	Non-Contributing; post dates period of significance
10315 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744		WASHINGTON SUB SANITARY COMM 14501 SWEITZER LN LAUREL, MD 20707	3.2123	1965; 1985; 2008	Side-gabled	Pumping/Sewage Station	Non-Contributing; post dates period of significance

10400 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744		WETHERILL, ARCHIE R 8646 FORT FOOTE RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	2.0150	1950	Side-gabled	Dwelling	Non-Contributing; post dates period of significance
10406 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744		MISEVETH, THEODORE 10406 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	1.8315	2001	Two-story Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	Non-Contributing; post dates period of significance
10408 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744		MISEVETH, THEODORE S 10408 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	0.9321	1965	Ranch	Dwelling	Non-Contributing; post dates period of significance
10511 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	Harmony Hall/Battersea (PG: 80-024-011)	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 18TH & F STS NW WASHINGTON, DC 20405 c/o GSA OFC COMM PUB BLDG SERV	64.7149	ca. 1770; 1947; 1981	Georgian	Dwelling	Contributing
10511 LIVINGSTON RD FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	Want Water Ruins (PG: 80-024-011)	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 18TH & F STS NW WASHINGTON, DC 20405 c/o GSA OFC COMM PUB BLDG SERV	1.0000	ca. 1718	Colonial	Ruins	Contributing



**BROAD CREEK HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
(PG:80-024)  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

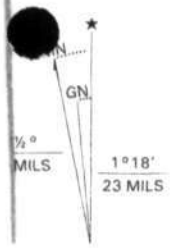
- UTM:
- ① 18/326215/4291899
  - ② 18/326806/4290940
  - ③ 18/325991/4290260
  - ④ 18/325421/4291439



**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

Primary highway hard surface .....	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface .....
Secondary highway hard surface .....	Unimproved road .....

Interstate Route   
 U.S. Route   
 State Route



1	2	3
4		5
6	7	8

- 1 Falls Church
- 2 Washington West
- 3 Washington East
- 4 Annandale
- 5 Anacostia
- 6 Fort Belvoir
- 7 Mount Vernon
- 8 Piscataway

**ALEXANDRIA, VA-DC-MD**  
1994





MOUNT VERNON QUADRANGLE  
 VIRGINIA-MARYLAND  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC-BATHYMETRIC)  
 NE/4 INDIAN HEAD 15' QUADRANGLE

5661 IV SW  
 (ANACOSTIA)

'23 790 000 FEET (MD) '24 '25 '26 77° 00' 38° 45'

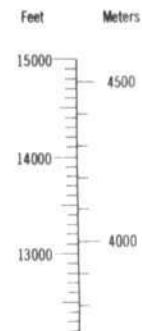


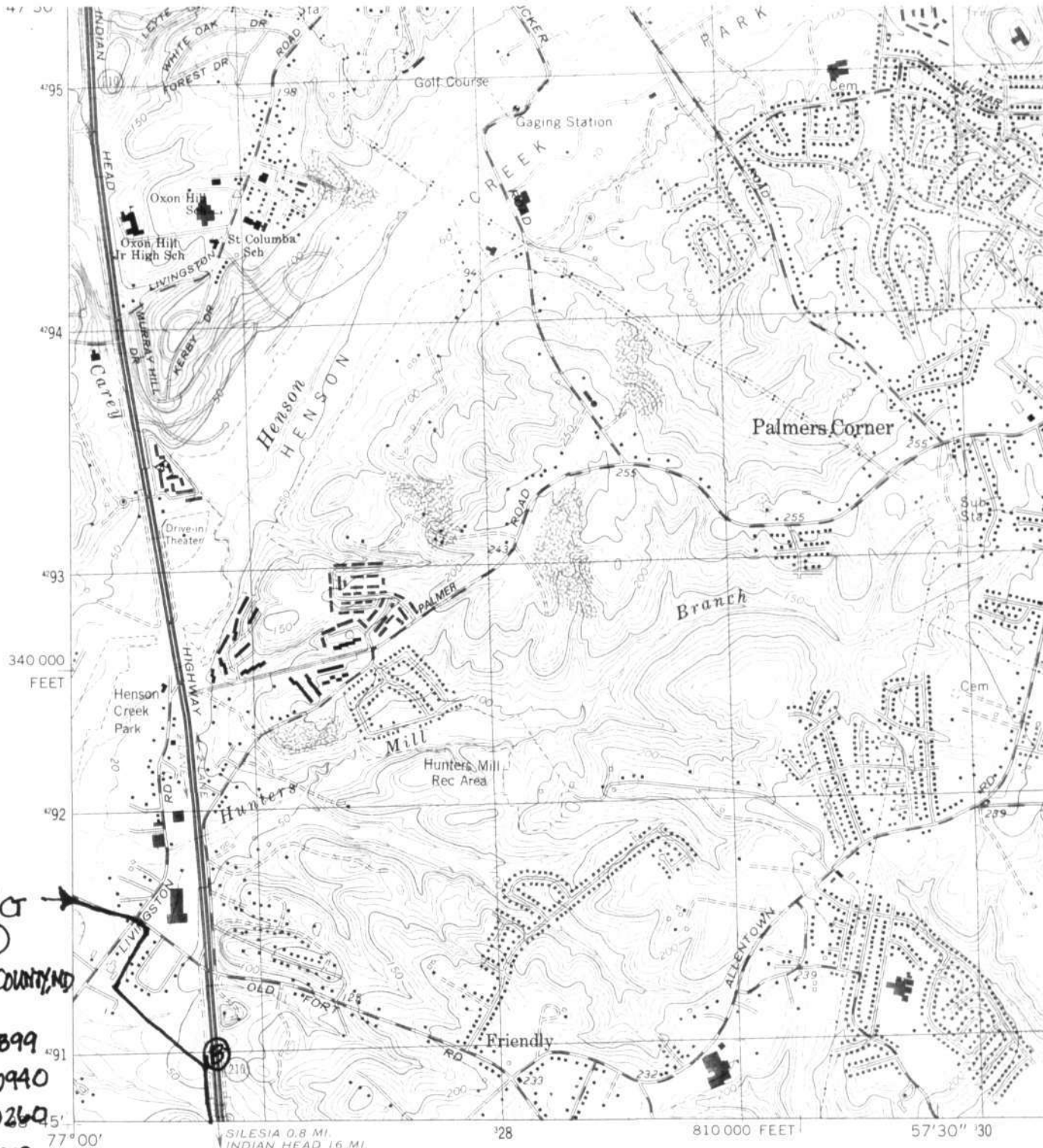
BROAD CREEK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 (PG:80-024)  
 PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

UTM:

- A 18/326215/4291899
- B 18/326806/4290940
- C 18/325991/4290260
- D 18/325A21/4291439

CONVERSION  
 SCALES





ROAD CREEK  
HISTORIC DISTRICT  
(PG: 80-024)

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD  
TM:

18/326215/4291899

18/326806/4290940

18/325991/4290260

18/325421/4291439

(MOUNT VERNON  
5561 H NE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
and the National Ocean Survey

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, USCE, NCPS, and WSSC

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken  
1955. Field checked 1956. Revised 1965

Bathymetry compiled by the National Ocean Survey from tide-coordinated  
hydrographic surveys. This information is not intended for navigational  
purposes

Mean low water (dotted) line and mean high water (heavy solid) line  
compiled by NOS from tide-coordinated photographs. Apparent shoreline  
(outer edge of vegetation) shown by light solid line

Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Maryland coordinate  
system

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 18  
1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the  
projection lines 9 meters south and 26 meters west as shown by  
dashed corner ticks

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National  
or State reservations shown on this map

NATIONAL OCEAN SURVEY  
HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY INDEX



HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY  
INCORPORATION

5561 1 SE  
(ALEXANDRIA)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SOUTH CAPITOL ST. BRIDGE, D. C. 8.3 MI.

77°00' 327000m E 328 329 57°30" 330

38°45'

ROAD CREEK HISTORIC  
DISTRICT (PG: 80-024)

INCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

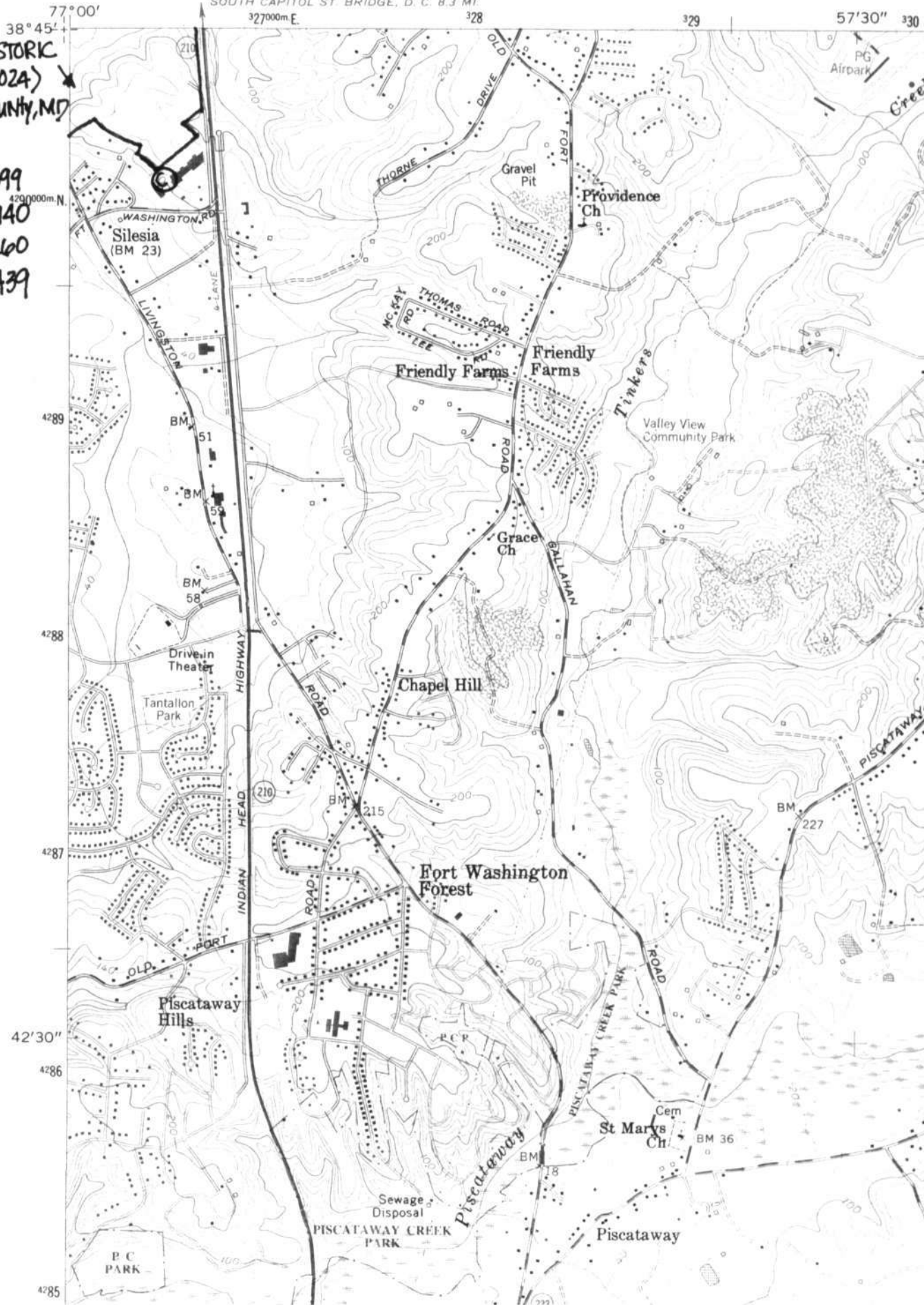
TM:

110/326215/4291899

110/326806/4290940

110/325991/4290260

110/325421/4291439





Broad Creek Historic District  
PG: 80-024  
Boundary Map

Prince George's County, Maryland

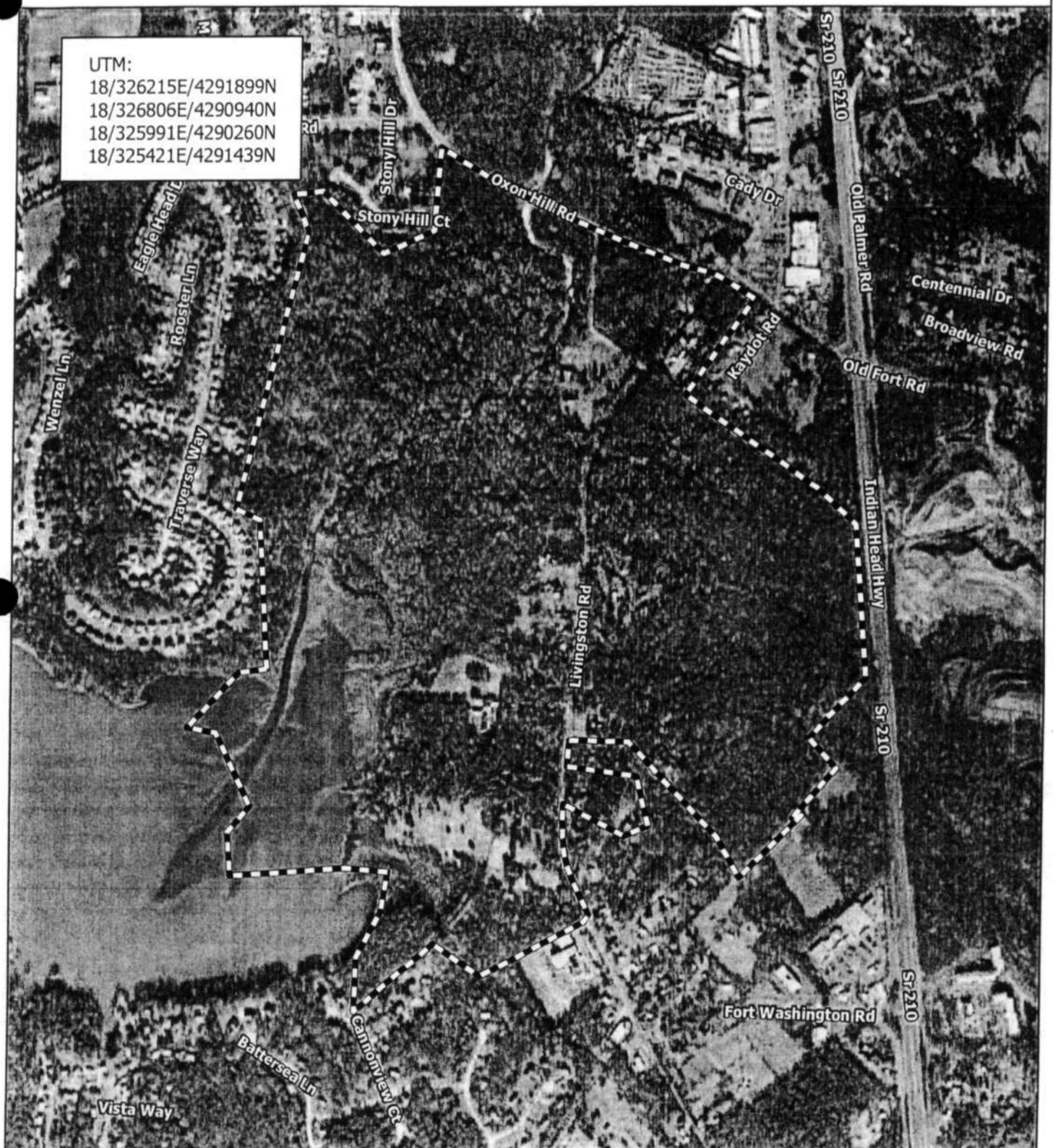
UTM:

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18/326806E/4290940N

18/325991E/4290260N

18/325421E/4291439N



1,000 0 1,000  
Feet



National Register  
Boundary



# Broad Creek Historic District

PG: 80-024

## Photograph Location Map

Prince George's County, Maryland

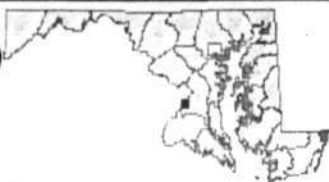
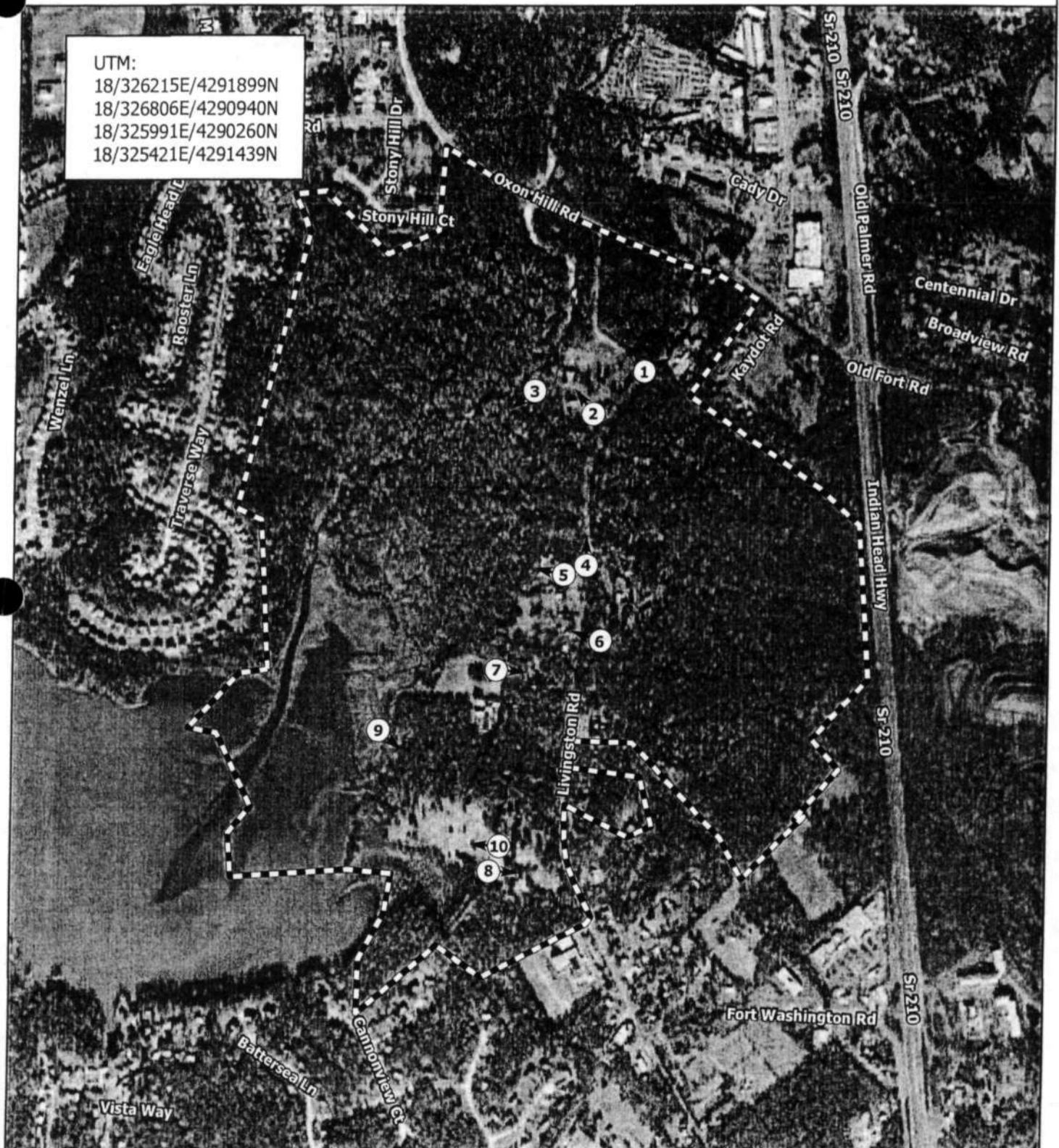
UTM:

18/326215E/4291899N

18/326806E/4290940N

18/325991E/4290260N

18/325421E/4291439N



1,000 0 1,000 Feet



Photograph Location



National Register Boundary

Map Sources: © 2009 i-cubed

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PG: 80-024  
Broad Creek Historic District  
Name of Property  
Name of Property

Prince George's County, MD  
County and State

Section PHOTO Page 1

### Index to Photographs

The following information applies to all photographs which accompany this documentation:

PG: 80-024

Broad Creek Historic District

Photo by B. Frederick, December 2009

Digital files located at MD SHPO

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_BroadCreekHD\_0001.tif: View from St. John's Way to northeast

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_BroadCreekHD\_0002.tif: St. John's Church, south & east elevations

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_BroadCreekHD\_0003.tif: Broad Creek, view to southwest from rear of St. John's Church

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_BroadCreekHD\_0004.tif: Livingston Road, view to northeast

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_BroadCreekHD\_0005.tif: 10101 Livingston Road (non-contributing), view to west

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_BroadCreekHD\_0006.tif: Livingston Road, typical non-contributing, view to west

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_BroadCreekHD\_0007.tif: Piscataway House, west elevation

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_BroadCreekHD\_0008.tif: Harmony Hall, west elevation

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_BroadCreekHD\_0009.tif: Want Water, view to southeast

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_BroadCreekHD\_0010.tif: Harmony Hall, view west to Potomac River



PG: 80-024

BRAD CREEK HISTORIC DISTRICT

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

B, FREDERICK

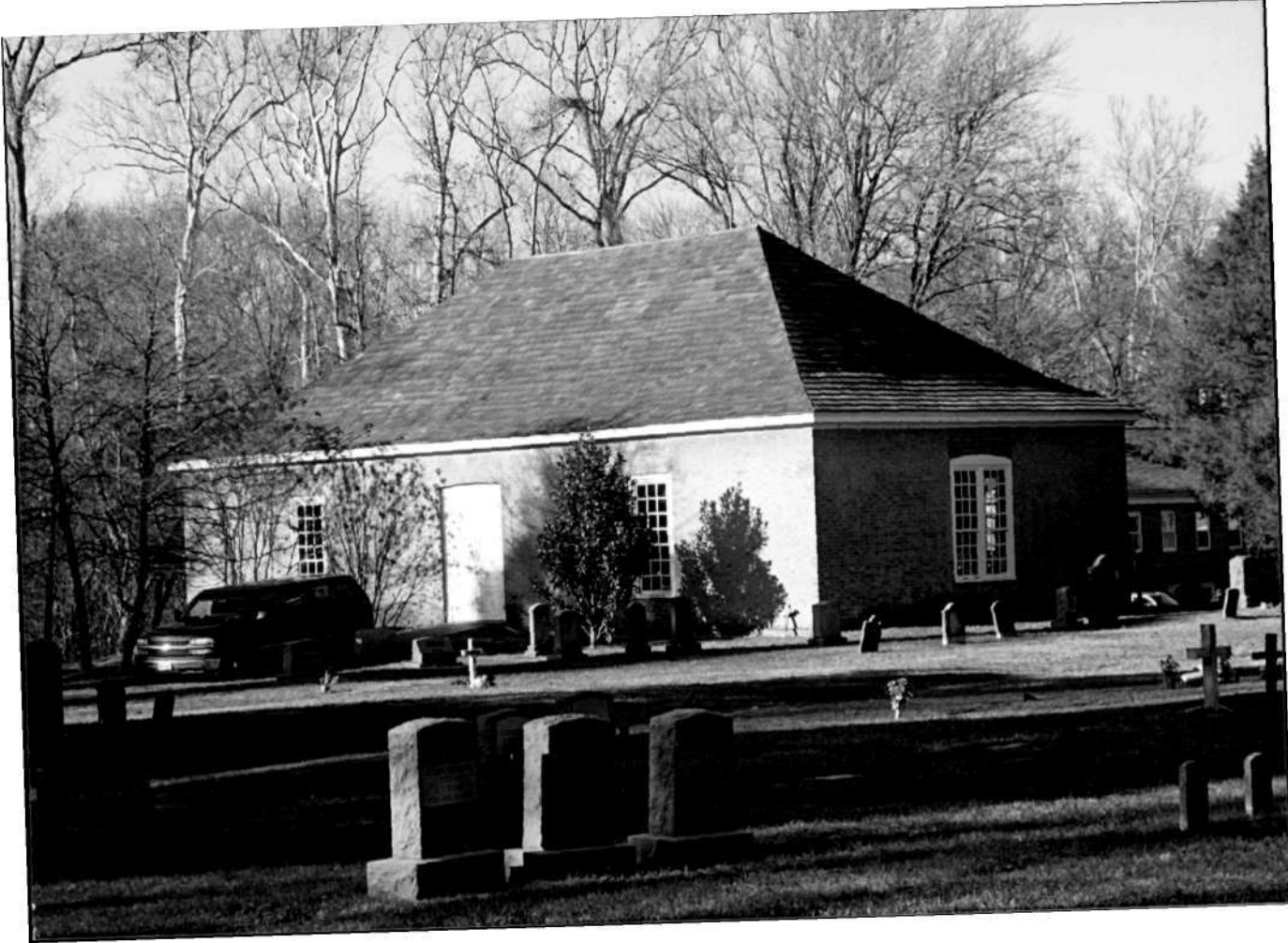
12, 2009

MD SHPO

NORTHEAST END OF DISTRICT, VIEW FROM ST. JOHN'S WAY  
TO NE

PHOTO # 1 of 10





P6: 80-024

BROAD CREEK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

B. FREDERICK

12-2009

MD SHPO

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SOUTH & EAST ELEVATIONS, VIEW TO NW

PHOTO # 2 of 10



P6:80-024  
BROAD CREEK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND  
B. FREDERICK  
12.2009  
MDSHPO

BROAD CREEK, VIEW TO SW from rear of ST. JOHN'S CHURCH  
PHOTO # 3 of 10





PG: 80-024

BROAD CREEK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

B, FREDERICK

12, 2009

MD SHPO

LIVINGSTON ROAD, VIEW TO NORTHEAST

PHOTO # 4 of 10



PG: 80-024

BROAD CREEK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

B. FREDERICK

12.2009

MD SHPO

MIEZA, 10101 LIVINGSTON ROAD (NON-contributing), NEW TO  
WEST

PHOTO # 5 of 10





PG: 80-024

BROAD CREEK HISTORIC DISTRICT

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

B, FREDERICK

12, 2009

MD SHPO

LIVINGSTON ROAD, typical example of non-contributing  
building, view to west

PHOTO # 6 of 10



PG: 80-24

BROAD CREEK HISTORIC DISTRICT

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

B. FREDERICK

12.2009

MD SHPO

PISCATAWAY HOUSE, WEST ELEVATION, VIEW TO EAST

PHOTO # 3 OF 10





PG: 80-024

BROAD CREEK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND

B. FREDERICK

12, 2009

MD SHPO

HARMONY HALL, WEST ELEVATION, VIEW TO EAST

PHOTO # 8 of 10



PG: 80-024

BROAD CREEK HISTORIC DISTRICT

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

B. FREDERICK

12, 2009

MD SHPO

WANT WATER, VIEW TO SOUTHEAST

PHOTO # 9 of 10





PG: 80-024

BROAD CREEK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND  
B. FREDERICK

12.2009

MD SHPO

HARMONY HALL, VIEW WEST TO POTOMAC RIVER

PHOTO # 10 of 10

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: Broad Creek Historic District Inventory Number: PG: 80-24

Address: Broad Creek, MD

Owner: various

Tax Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Project MD 210: I-495 to MD 228 Agency State Highway Administration (SHA)

Site visit by SHA Staff: X no    yes Name: Katry Harris Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility **not** recommended   

Criteria X A    B X C X D Considerations: X A X B    C    D    E    F    G    None

Is property located within a historic district? X no    yes Name of District: \_\_\_\_\_

Is district listed?: X no    yes

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

For the purposes of 36 CFR 800.4 (Identification of Historic Properties) and the application of the Section 106 process to the current project, the Broad Creek Historic District is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Prepared by: Katry Harris

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended     
Criteria:    A    B    C    D Consideration    A    B    C    D    E    F    G    None

CR Boudle  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

B. Kuntz  
Reviewer, NR Program

12/8/2000  
Date

3/23/01  
Date

## **Capsule Summary**

Inventory No. PG: 80-24  
Property Name: Broad Creek Historic District  
Address:  
City: Broad Creek  
Date of Construction: 1662 - 1800

### **Description (Summary):**

The district includes St. John's Church, Harmony Hall, Want Water ruins, and Piscataway House and their contiguous setting. Each of these components has been individually documented and evaluated.

### **Significance (Summary):**

The district encompasses the extant components of the colonial port town of Aire. Aire was a tobacco port established by the Maryland General Assembly, and it developed as a result of the of the thriving tobacco agronomy in the colonial period.

Acreage: 589.71

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. PG-80-24

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Aire

common/other name Broad Creek Historic District

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Broad Creek vicinity \_\_\_\_\_ state MD code \_\_\_\_\_

county \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- ☒ private
- ☒ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☒ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
- ☒ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing      Noncontributing

<u>3</u>	<u>24</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>24</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Listing \_\_\_\_\_

No X

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

Inventory No. PG-80-24  
Page 2

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling  
Agricultural Field, Ag. Outbldgs  
Religion Church

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Recreation Sub: Park  
Religion Church

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial  
Pre-Georgian  
Georgian

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_  
roof \_\_\_\_\_  
walls \_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1



=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☒ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☒ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☒ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

Inventory No. PG 80-24  
Page 4

=====  
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Architecture

Religion

Period of Significance 1662-1800

Significant Dates

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"Broad Creek Historic District Study," Maryland National Park and Planning Commission, 1983.

MNCPPC, Historic Sites and Districts Plan for Prince George's County, MD. Upper Marlboro: MNCPPC, 1992.

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property 589.71 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)  
See 10-1, 10-2, 10-3

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Jill Dowling  
organization SHA date 2/9/98  
street & number 707 N. Calvert telephone 410-545-8559  
city or town Baltimore state MD zip code

=====

12. Property Owner

=====

name Various- National Park Service  
street & number  telephone  city   
or town  state  zip code

=====

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No PG-80-24

Section 7 Page 1

Broad Creek District  
name of property  
Broad Creek, MD  
county and state

*Broad Creek  
Historic District*

County Historic District  
Boundary



National Register

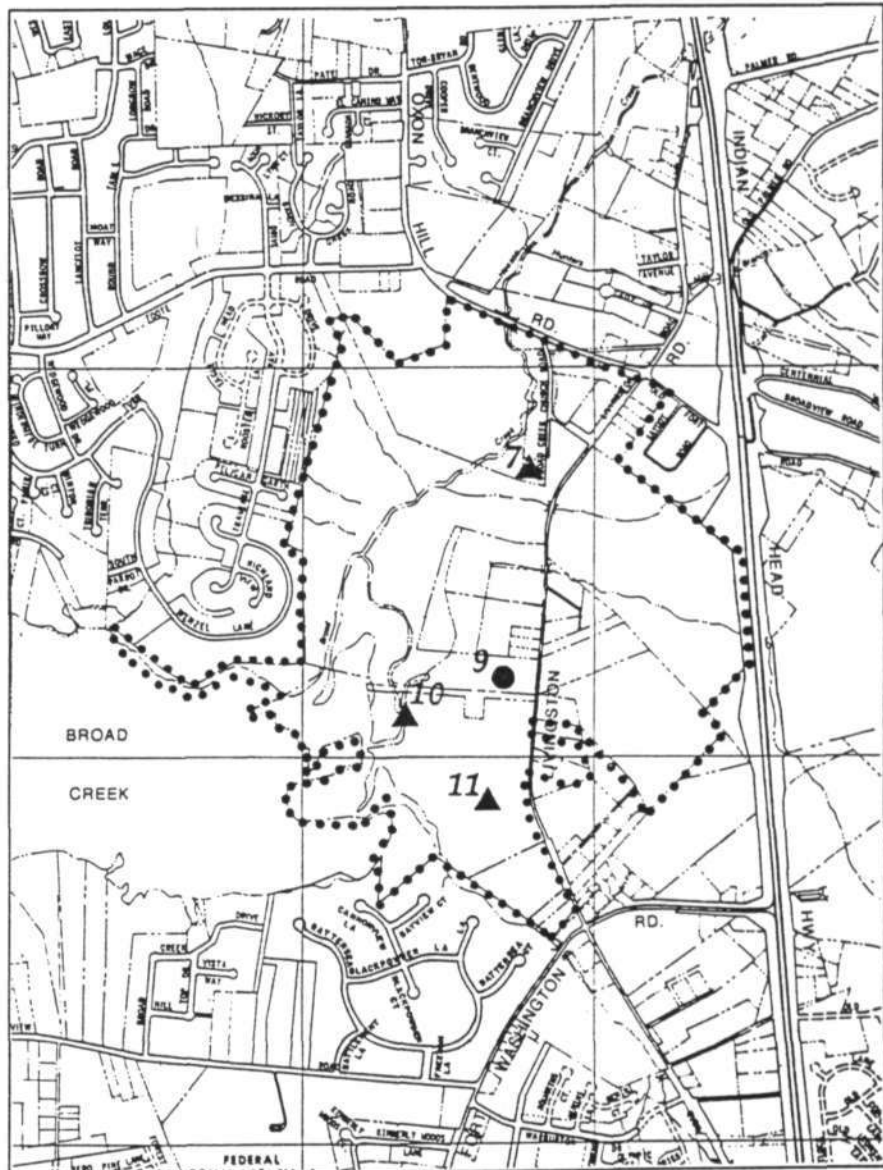


Site



2000' 0 2000'

SCALE



MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG 80-24

Section 8 Page 1

Broad Creek Historic Dist.  
name of property  
Broad Creek, MD.  
County and state

=====

First Involvement: 1662-1699

The first recorded English involvement in Broad Creek came in 1662 with a survey for the 500-acre tract called Battersea to Humphrey Haggett. Haggett was a young, ambitious lawyer who practiced in the County Court.<sup>1</sup> The location of his grant along the river suggests his youthful influence in getting this coveted location and possibly his eye for the natural harbor at Broad Creek destined to serve a function for shipping. The Battersea tract, also spelled Battersee and Battersey, stretched northeast in a large rectangular pattern encompassing much of the area that is now part of the proposed Broad Creek Historic District.

North of the Battersea tract was another land grant named Little Hall which in part became the home for the Piscataway Parish of the Church of England in 1692. This parish, now known as King George's, was one of the original thirty Church of England parishes set up at this time. In 1695, the first frame church was built on the selected 78 acres of Little Hall.<sup>2</sup> St. John's Church became the mother church to a number of other Episcopal churches in the Washington area,<sup>3</sup> and is the oldest church on its original site in the County.

Both the selection of Little Hall as the site for St. John's Church and the construction of the church were engineered by the vestrymen of Piscataway Parish. The most prominent vestryman was Colonel John Addison, a member of the Governor's Council, the son-in-law of the first Anglican clergyman to migrate to Maryland, and the first colonel of the militia of Prince George's County. Other prominent vestrymen included William Hatton, a justice of the Provincial court, William Hutchison, a justice of the County court and a delegate to the Assembly, and William Tannehill, also a justice of the County court. These same men were active in the establishment of Prince George's County in 1696.<sup>4</sup>

The Community is Established: 1700-1730

As the 18th century began to unfold in Broad Creek and Prince George's County, St. John's Church became a center of community and religious life for the County. In 1710, the first rector, John Fraser, arrived at St. John's. Fraser claimed that his reason for accepting the parish was because of his wife's real estate holdings. His wife, Anne Blizzard, had inherited two substantial tracts of land, one called Blue Plains near Oxon Hill and the other called St. James



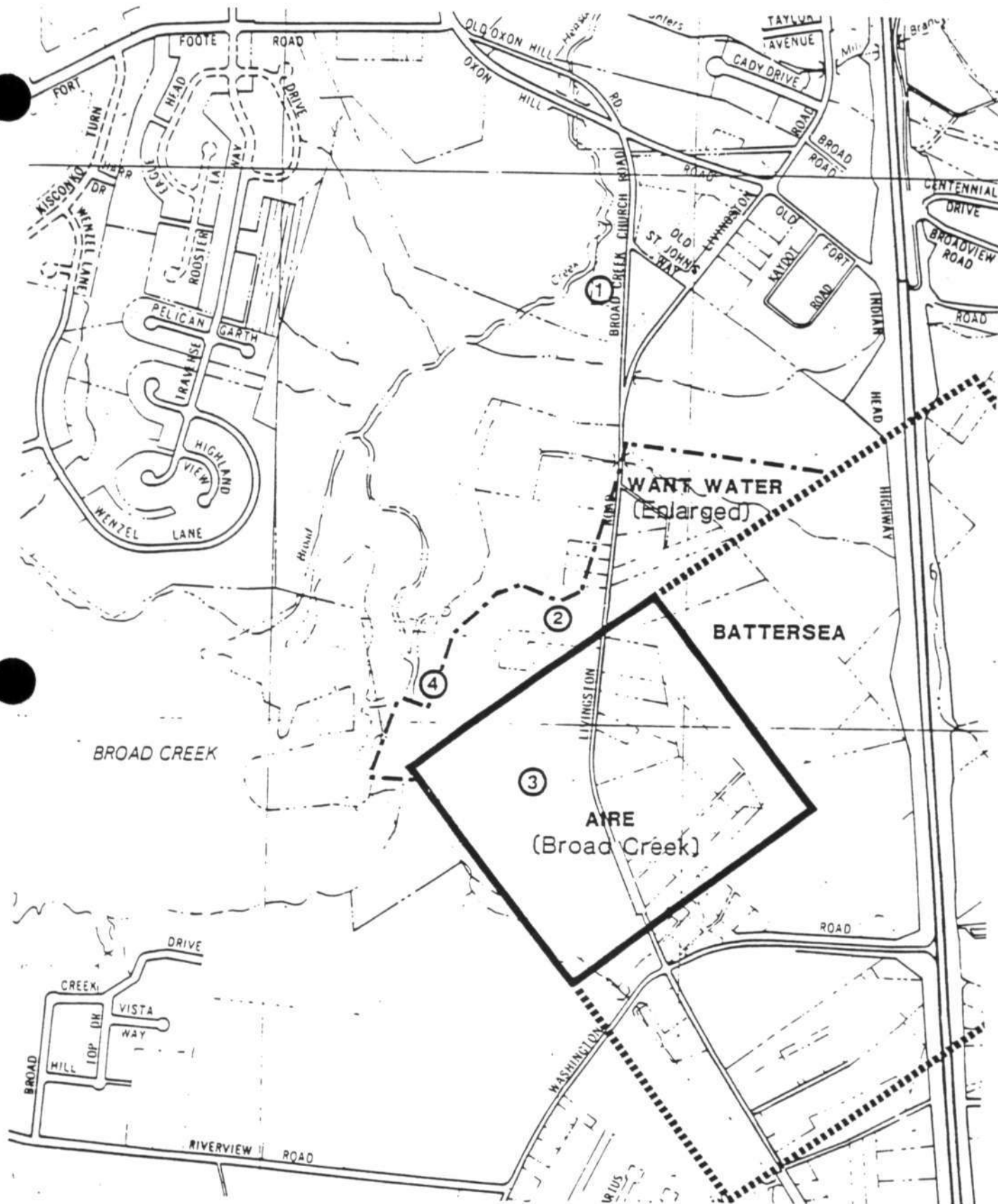
on Piscataway Creek.<sup>5</sup> Fraser remained as rector until his death in 1742; this ended over thirty-two years of service.<sup>6</sup>

It is unclear as to how much of a community predated the erection of St. John's Church in Broad Creek, but it is easy to document the growth of a community after the church had developed as a focal point of the County. One sign of growth came with the 1706 Assembly Act for the Advancement of Trade which set up six towns in Prince George's County to be ports for shipping tobacco. The Town of Aire was established at Broad Creek--the only one of the six towns placed on the Potomac River. The description of Aire was given as follows, "brod Creek... on the south side of sd Creek at Thomas Lewis's landing."<sup>7</sup>

It is difficult to determine if Aire, later called Broad Creek, ever developed into a legitimate town or remained a scattered community. Louise Heinton states that the port became a sizeable town with shops and taverns.<sup>8</sup> Although there is some reason to believe that the town grew to this extent, such as a 1716 order for stocks and a whipping post, a division of the land set aside for Aire into lots has not been found.<sup>9</sup> It is entirely possible that Aire or Broad Creek was spread out over the land stretching from the Battersea and Want Water tracts to St. John's Church along the creek to the north, originally the tract of Little Hall. Nevertheless, if Aire or Broad Creek did disappear as a town, it would be much like other vanished Tidewater tobacco ports and would support the theory that many tobacco planters preferred their own wharves to a possibly distant and inconvenient port.<sup>10</sup>

The imprecise description given above made the location of the Town of Aire difficult to determine and for years subject to speculation as to its exact location. Recent research, however, has uncovered a description of a town in the deed for the transfer of Battersea from Richard Lewis to William Tyler in 1709. The metes and bounds of the town outlined approximately 100-120 acres in the southwest corner of Battersea bordered on the northwest by the tract called Want Water and on the southwest by Clash Creek.<sup>11</sup> (See Map 2) A formal town plan as suggested in the 1706 Assembly Act was not located.

Since the Broad Creek area was receiving a lot of attention around 1706-1710, the activity must have attracted the well-to-do Thomas Addison, son of Colonel John Addison. In 1708, he patented the small tract of land called Want Water.<sup>12</sup> This name may have been derived from the name for the mouth of Broad Creek called Wide Water Cover. Regardless, it is believed that Thomas Addison constructed the once handsome frame and brick dwelling that carries the name of the



MAP 2

HISTORIC TOWN OF AIRE

Scale: 1"=1000

1. St. John's Church
2. Piscataway House
3. Harmony Hall
4. Want Water Ruins

land patent, Want Water. Little is known about the house and Mr. Addison's association with it except that it was well-appointed with rich interior paneling and had a foundation with galleting--small pebbles placed in the mortar mostly for a decorative effect. These are obvious signs of wealth which increase the association between the house and Thomas Addison and make the dating of circa 1710 more likely. John Addison, the eldest son of Thomas Addison, inherited Want Water in 1727.<sup>13</sup>

In the same deed that described the Town of Aire or Broad Creek in 1709, Battersea was transferred to William Tyler. Upon the death of William Tyler, Battersea passed by will to his son William Tyler, Jr. in 1721.<sup>14</sup> It is during the ownership of the younger William Tyler that most accounts state that the Georgian mansion, now known as Harmony Hall, was constructed, circa 1723.<sup>15</sup> Although architectural historians who have inspected the mansion tend to accept the 1723 date of construction, the date is suspect when the inventory of William Tyler, Sr., is explored. This inventory shows only modest possessions, such as a few beds and only utilitarian fireplace utensils.<sup>16</sup> It seems unlikely that the son would have had the means to construct such a stately home shortly after inheriting the land. Nevertheless, until more research is done on the matter, it is presumed that the circa 1723 date of construction is correct.

By the same will that passed Battersea to William Tyler, Jr., Mary Tyler, the second child of the elder William Tyler, acquired a mill at Broad Creek in 1721.<sup>17</sup> This is significant for two reasons. One is that it tells us that there was once a mill on Broad Creek for which there are no visible remains; and, second that Mary Tyler carried a handsome dowry with her when she married Humphrey Batt, a shipwright, in 1727.<sup>18</sup>

#### Growth of the Community: 1730-1775

The recorded activities of Humphrey Batt are one indication of the continued growth of the town of Broad Creek in the mid-18th century. It is known that Humphrey Batt operated a shipbuilding business through 1735, probably near the mouth of Broad Creek.<sup>19</sup> His obvious success allowed him to purchase Want Water from John Addison in 1736.<sup>20</sup> Batt was still in business in 1747 when a tobacco inspection warehouse was authorized to be built on his land.<sup>21</sup> The whereabouts of the warehouse has not yet been determined. In 1756 Humphrey Batt willed Want Water to his son-in-law Richard Barnes. Barnes disposed of the house and property, approximately 47 acres, to Enoch Magruder in 1761.<sup>22</sup>

Eight years later, in 1769, Enoch Magruder purchased Battersea. This wealthy merchant and extensive landowner must have seen the value of the Broad Creek harbor so closely positioned along the Battersea and Want Water tracts. Although Magruder is known to have lived at Battersea at some point, it is believed that he rotated between this house and his other house farther inland called Mount Lubentia. Another theory is that Mount Lubentia, constructed in 1761, served as his home until he purchased Battersea.<sup>23</sup> Since it is known that Magruder leased Mount Lubentia to a Reverend Boucher in 1771, it is entirely possible that he could have built the mansion on Battersea around 1770 in anticipation of a move closer to the river.<sup>24</sup> This date would still follow the long accepted legend that bricks remaining from the construction of St. John's Church were used on the Battersea mansion.<sup>25</sup> In this case the bricks could have been from the substantial alterations and additions of the church, completed in 1767-1768, in which Enoch Magruder played an active role.<sup>26</sup> If this theory could be researched more thoroughly, it might provide a new date for the construction of the mansion now known as Harmony Hall.

Shortly after the death of Reverend John Fraser in 1742, Henry Addison was named the second rector of St. John's. Henry Addison was the grandson of Colonel John Addison, one of the founding vestrymen. During his tenure the alterations and additions to the present structure were completed. Henry Addison, a loyalist, returned to England in 1775 in anticipation of the war. His departure marked the close of the pre-Revolutionary period in the history of Broad Creek.<sup>27</sup>

#### The Stabilizing Community: 1776-1799

Following the departure of Henry Addison, Joseph Messenger became rector of St. John's Church and remained there for twenty years.<sup>28</sup> At some point in his tenure as rector, he is believed to have used Battersea or Harmony Hall as the rectory.<sup>29</sup> Messenger's long term as rector of St. John's came to an end on the eve of the 19th century. In 1799, Walter Dulaney Addison, great-nephew of Reverend Henry Addison, became assistant rector and later rector of St. John's.<sup>30</sup> This Addison is said to have been the first priest ordained in America by Thomas John Clagett, the first Episcopal bishop consecrated in the United States.<sup>31</sup> The extended length of Joseph Messenger's stay at St. John's was a stabilizing force for the Broad Creek community in this period.

The long-term ownership of Battersea and Want Water by the Magruder family likewise contributed to the stability of Broad Creek. Upon Enoch Magruder's death in 1786, Battersea and Want Water were willed to his daughter Sarah Magruder. Sarah, who had married Colonel



William Lyles around 1776, chose to live at Want Water giving it the name of "Lyles House".<sup>32</sup> Battersea remained in Sarah Magruder's name, but the mansion became more closely associated with two members of the Addison family and with Sarah's brother, Dennis Magruder.

The association with the Addison family came in 1793 when two brothers, Walter Dulany Addison and John Addison, and their wives rented Battersea for a year. At the end of the year, Mrs. Walter Dulany Addison named the place "Harmony Hall" because of the harmonious time the two couples had shared there. This name and story have outlived the legal name of "Battersea".<sup>33</sup>

The association with Dennis Magruder came around the turn of the 19th century when he is known to have lived at Harmony Hall. In spite of this close attachment to the Magruder family, Harmony Hall remained in the Lyles family until the middle of the 19th century.<sup>34</sup>

At the close of the 18th century, the Broad Creek area had become the home of tobacco planters, carpenters, shipbuilders, and merchants. It was the location for ordinaries and taverns. By attracting so many people and personalities, it became the center of legends and a source of historical pride. Some of the legends report the travels of George Washington around Broad Creek claiming that he dined at Want Water and Harmony Hall and attended services at St. John's Church. Another legend tells of a fatal duel between the youngest son of Colonel William Lyles and his cousin over an off-handed comment about the young Lyles sister's dancing.<sup>35</sup> Whether fact or fiction, the stories have been repeated over the years and have made the history of Broad Creek more colorful.

### 19th Century

Throughout the 19th century Broad Creek continued to attract new settlers, but to a lesser degree than in its 18th century heyday. The focus of the area had historically been toward the river as the major means of transporting goods, but as the Broad Creek inlet began to show siltation, gradually Broad Creek become less of a viable harbor. Technological advancements such as the railroad, located farther inland, and more roads also changed the orientation of the area. For such reasons, Broad Creek was bypassed for development in favor of communities in other parts of Prince George's County.

In spite of this, a wave of new settlers arrived in the late 19th century. These new settlers were of German extraction who were encouraged to come to Broad Creek by a recent immigrant named Robert Stein. Stein is reported to have worked as a translator for the



National Geological Survey and to have published articles on geology and linguistics. In his efforts to attract his family to the United States, he purchased acreage in Broad Creek which included Harmony Hall and part of Silesia to the south of Harmony Hall. His brother, Richard Stein, and a friend, Joseph Adler, moved into Harmony Hall. Their acreage was called "Broad Creek Farms." German immigrants continued to move to Broad Creek into the early 20th century. Some of the descendants from these families still live in the area, such as the Tilch family.<sup>36</sup>

### 20th Century

For the most part, the architecture and history of Broad Creek had been ignored during the 19th century. It lay in this largely unaltered, unnoticed state until the 1920s. At that time Charles Collins arrived, purchased Harmony Hall, and began a period of conservation and preservation that has continued in Broad Creek.<sup>37</sup> Mr. Collins restored Harmony Hall and created around it a plantation-like setting. He prepared historical reports on Harmony Hall, Want Water, and the Broad Creek area. His efforts preserved for us the many artifacts of the 18th century we find today.

One particular project deserves recognition and explanation. This was the move of the dwelling now called Piscataway House. This house was located in the Town of Piscataway, approximately four miles to the south of Broad Creek. Aware of its threatened demolition, Mr. Collins purchased the house and detached kitchen and moved them to Broad Creek in the early 1930s.<sup>38</sup> The move was in the wake of the popular preservation and reconstruction activities of Williamsburg, Virginia, and similar places in the 1920s and 1930s. Therefore, the moving of Piscataway House was not seen as a question of the right or wrong preservation philosophy, but as a means of preserving a valuable and threatened architectural resource. Its placement in Broad Creek could not have been more appropriate. The Town of Piscataway had been established for purposes similar to Broad Creek, namely for tobacco exportation. So, by placing the dwelling, dated circa 1750 and associated with a tobacco community, in Broad Creek, it was in the correct time frame and in perfect character with its new setting. As an extant structure in excellent condition, it contributes significantly to the architectural cohesiveness and integrity of the proposed Broad Creek Historic District.

### Architecture

Four documented historic sites fall within the boundaries of the potential historic district. The location and contiguous relationship

of these sites served as the impetus for establishing a historic district in the area.

St. John's Church - 9801 Livingston Road - 1766. The brick church which was built on this site in 1722 superseded two frame structures (the first from 1695) both of which had been destroyed by fire. The present church was built in 1766, incorporating parts of the 1722 foundations (see Map 3, #1). St. John's is an example of Georgian ecclesiastical architecture arranged as a simple rectangular brick structure in Flemish bond with a hipped roof. The west facade serves as the main entrance distinguished as such by the small, gabled porch covering it. The east facade has two twelve-over-nine windows which replaced a circular stained glass window that had been installed in 1910. The central bay of the three-bay south facade is occupied by a double door, originally the main entrance. The north facade is four bays wide with a twelve-over-nine window in each bay. A rustic, wooden bell tower with a wooden shingled, pyramidal roof stands next to the porch on the west facade, roughly the same height as the porch.

To the east of the church is the rectory, a modern red brick dwelling that is visually harmonious with the church building. The rectory was constructed in 1961. The main entrance and driveway are from Livingston Road.

The Parish Hall stands to the north of the church separated by a semi-circular driveway. This L-shaped, brick building, constructed in 1965, is also harmonious with the church. The weathered gravestones and majestic old trees in the cemetery and lawns surrounding the church provide a serene setting.

Today, St. John's is owned by the Vestry of King George's Parish and is maintained by an active minister and congregation. The building was documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1936. Additional research was completed by The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission as part of the nomination of St. John's to the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination was formally approved and listed in 1974.<sup>39</sup>

Harmony Hall - 10511 Livingston Road - circa 1723. Harmony Hall is the second site in the proposed district (see Map 3, #3). Originally known as Battersea, this two-and-one-half story Georgian mansion is constructed of red brick set in Flemish bond pattern. The west facade, facing the Potomac River, has seven bays, six with shuttered windows on the first and second floors. The seventh and central bay contains on the first floor a Georgian-style door with a triangular

pediment, entablature, and pilasters on each side. The east facade, facing Livingston Road, has seven bays, six with shuttered windows. The central bay has a double door with a small entrance porch. Two dormers and a central brick pediment with a large bull's-eye window appear above the cornice. The north and south ends have brick chimneys. On the south facade there is also a story-and-a-half brick pantry wing added in the 1930s. Eight outbuildings -- two one-and-one-half story frame servant's quarters, a garage, a smokehouse, a two-story bungalow, two frame sheds, and a log shed -- in various stages of disrepair complete the plantation-like setting. These eight outbuildings are mostly 20th century and are considered non-historic but compatible.<sup>40</sup>

A gravel driveway, approached through a white picket gate from Livingston Road, leads up to the east facade. The driveway forms a circle in front of the house. The east grounds are shielded from Livingston Road by a fence, trees and shrubs. Another white picket gate is located on the northeast part of the property; it is not in use. On the west front of the house a lawn extends down toward the Potomac River. At one time, extensive landscaping must have existed on this lawn. Also, historically there was a ha-ha beyond this lawn to restrict wandering cattle. This side of Harmony Hall provides a spectacular view of the river in the winter months, although some selective pruning is needed.

In 1929, the house was purchased by Charles Collins and subsequently restored. Sue Collins, the widow of Charles Collins, sold the house, outbuildings, and sixty-five acres to the National Park Service in 1966 with a life tenancy. The property was part of a proposed parkway to Fort Washington, roughly two miles to the southeast, which was never realized.

Harmony Hall was measured by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1934 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.<sup>40</sup> Recently, in May 1983, Mrs. Collins died, leaving the house unoccupied and presenting difficult questions to the National Park Service as to how to maximize the reuse of the property. The current National Park Service plan is to seek an appropriate commercial reuse which would allow the tenant to collect tax benefits for restoration work.<sup>41</sup>

Want Water Ruins - 10511 Livingston Road (same property as Harmony Hall) - circa 1710. The third site included in the district is known as Want Water or Lyles House (see Map 3, #4). It is more accurate to refer to this property as the "Want Water ruins." Today, the property is owned by the National Park Service and is located on the original

PG: 80-24

parcel purchased from Mrs. Collins as part of the Harmony Hall property.

Want Water was a one-and-one-half story rectangular dwelling with frame sides, brick ends, and a gambrel roof. Photographs and measured drawings by the Historic American Buildings Survey show that both the west and east facades had four bays with six-over-six windows occupying three of the bays. The fourth bay, off-centered, was the entrance on both sides of the house, connected by a central hallway. The entire house measured 46'-4" by 22'-6". The later figure includes a brick terrace on the west facade, uncovered during the Historic American Buildings Survey work in the 1930s. Significant architectural features included the galleting in the fieldstone foundations and the rich decorative interior paneling. The only remaining features are the two brick gable ends, the fieldstone foundations and some wooden floor joists. The brick end walls are set in Flemish bond with window and door openings flanking the chimneys in the center of each end wall.

Want Water is the earliest structure in the district. It was documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey, probably at the same time as Harmony Hall.<sup>42</sup> It was also listed on the National Register with the Harmony Hall nomination. Today, its ruinous condition deems it unusable for all practical purposes; but, there may be valuable archeological data awaiting discovery and interpretation. This seems to be the only predictable use the National Park Service can foresee, although its stabilization and interpretative use in a trail system is desired by local citizens.

Piscataway House - 10307 Livingston Road - circa 1750. Piscataway House completes the inventory of the historic properties in the proposed district (see Map 3, #2). Piscataway House is a one-and-one-half story frame dwelling with a steep, pitched gable roof extending to cover a porch on the east and west facades. The west facade is three bays wide with the main entrance through the central bay. Two freestanding brick chimneys are on each gable end, those on the south facade are connected by a pent. On the east and west slopes of the roof are three dormer windows with fluted pilasters, small capitals, and broken pediments. The house was moved in the early 1930's from the Town of Piscataway to avoid demolition. At that time the once separate brick kitchen was attached to the north facade. In 1980 a south wing was designed and built to balance the carriage house and kitchen on the north. A frame workhouse is separated from the house by a circular graveled driveway. Farther to the west is a frame stable in a small pasture behind the house.



PG: 80-24

Finally, the last set of factors are political, economic, or social in nature. The political factors are government-owned land, institutional land, and attitudes of private citizens and property owners.<sup>64</sup> At this stage, these factors are not desirable to use.

#### Description of Boundaries

The determination of boundaries is the most difficult issue surrounding the creation of the Broad Creek Historic District. A number of alternatives were considered; those rejected are described in Appendix C. The boundaries described below are for the largest land area considered. Local citizens have suggested an expansion of these boundaries. The proposed boundaries and alternative are illustrated on Map 7.

Special concerns in delineating boundaries were to include all vistas and visual approaches, landscape features contributing to the semi-rural setting, and the original site of the Town of Aire or Broad Creek. The proposed boundaries with an adjustment for the alternative satisfy all these concerns.

The proposed boundaries include a total of 589.71 acres, with twenty-two private property owners, two quasi-public property owners, and four public property owners. The northern boundary is set by Oxon Hill and Old Fort Roads. The western boundary follows the property line of the M-NCPPC property down to and around the Broad Creek inlet until connecting with the M-NCPPC property below the inlet. At that point the southern boundary is established by Riverview Road which moves toward the east along Fort Washington Road. Near the intersection of Fort Washington with Livingston Road, the southern boundary follows along property lines in order to exclude the Harmony Hall Elementary School. The boundary then crosses Livingston Road and follows property lines again on the eastern side of Livingston Road. The eastern boundary follows property lines up to Old Fort Road.

The alternative to these boundaries calls for an adjustment to the southern boundary so that it continues toward the east on Fort Washington Road then moves toward the north on Livingston Road at their intersection. This alternative includes Harmony Hall Elementary School. The alternative southern boundary picks up across Livingston Road along property lines, and then follows a ridge line near the intersection of Indian Head Highway and Fort Washington Road. This adjustment allows for the topographical features that are critical to the vistas of the historic properties.

The boundaries described here may be defended in the following ways:



PG: 80-24

- (1) Maximum protection is allowed for visual approaches and potential vistas to and from the historic sites by including the elevation in the northwest and southeast quadrants;
- (2) A broad interpretation is given to the local historic district ordinance with the application of the term "environmental setting" which sets a reasonable precedent for preservation efforts in the County;
- (3) The land areas sensitive to development pressure and still connected with the historic sites will be protected because of the broad consideration of physical and natural features;
- (4) All of the objectives given for creating a district will be satisfied;
- (5) The proposed zoning and land use changes will not be altered significantly by the district boundaries;
- (6) The environmentally-sensitive land is protected; and
- (7) They provide opportunities for public access to the historic features through the potential for walking trails.

The following may be negative factors in selecting these boundaries:

- (1) The edges, particularly along the eastern boundary, are difficult to determine because they do not easily show up on a field inspection;
- (2) There are a number of property owners included which means the likelihood for owner disapproval and political vulnerability is increased;
- (3) There are some points that are a sizeable distance away from the historic sites, but must be included within property lines to avoid arbitrary lines of designation;
- (4) The size of the acreage included could lead to controversy over how much land should be included in the historic district;
- (5) There would be an increase in the administrative and Historic Preservation Commission time involved in review of the district due to the number of properties and the amount of land included. This increased workload might overtax existing bodies of review;

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG-80-24

Broad Creek District  
name of property  
Broad Creek, MD  
county and state

=====

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Contact and Settlement Period  
(1570-1750)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape  
Architecture, and Community  
Planning

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category:

District

Historic Environment:

Rural

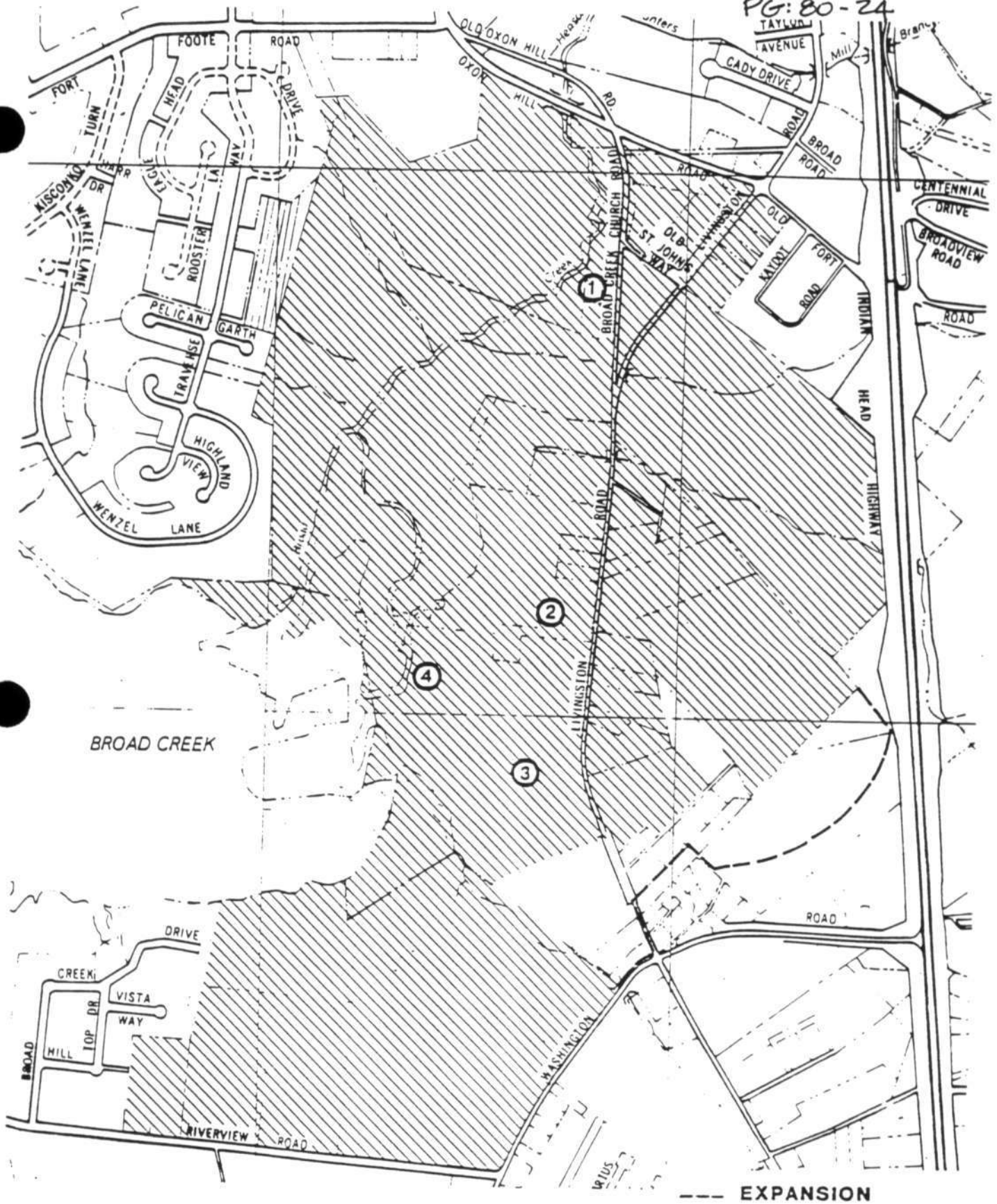
Historic Function (s):

Agriculture, Religious

Known Design Source:

None

Boundaries: 10-1  
PG: 80-24



**MAP 7**  
**PROPOSED DISTRICT C**  
**AND EXPANSION**

Scale: 1"=1000

1. St. John's Church
2. Piscataway House
3. Harmony Hall
4. Want Water Ruins

PG:80-24  
Broad Creek Historic District (Aire)  
Fort Washington  
Alexandria, Anacostia, Piscataway, and Mt. Vernon Quadrangles

